2016 Talking Book Center Adult Winter Reading Program

I Cannot Live Without Books:

Celebrating the Joy of Reading and the 85th Anniversary of the Talking Book Program!



Reading Guide

Categories:

- Historic Feats and Prominent People of 1931
- Happy Birthday!, Notable Individuals and Authors Born in 1931
- Exploring Events and Times of the 1930s
- For the Love of Libraries and Defenders of the Freedom to Read
- Authors and Writers...Creating Worlds with Words
- The Art of Reading for Booklovers

A statewide program for the North Dakota State Library

Talking Book Library

Serving the Print Impaired*

In 1931, the Library of Congress was authorized to create a library program providing books to the blind. North Dakota began offering talking books in 1995. The following selection of books explores significant events and births in 1931 as well as the era of the 1930s.

Historic Feats and Prominent People of 1931

Empire State Building Completed

DB 67062

Nearest Thing to Heaven: the Empire State Building and American Dreams by Mark Kingwell

Philosophy professor and Harper's contributing editor reflects on New York City's Empire State Building, which, once completed in 1931, stood as the world's tallest building for four decades. Discusses its conceptualization and construction; its representation in art, film, and literature; and its importance as an architectural and cultural icon.

Work Begins on the Hoover Dam

DB 72792

Colossus: Hoover Dam and the Making of the American Century by Michael Hiltzik

Pulitzer Prize winner examines the 1931-1935 Depression-era construction of the Hoover Dam, which tamed the Colorado River and created Lake Mead. Describes the technical problems, labor practices, and personalities involved during the planning and building stages. Discusses the project's impact on the West.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially adopted as the national anthem of the United States of America by President Hoover.

DB 53453

The Flag, the Poet, and the Song: the Story of the Star-Spangled Banner by Irvin Molotsky

Relates the history of the United States flag, how it inspired the poem written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key, and how the poem was set to music and later adopted as the national anthem. Discusses the myths and facts surrounding these events.

Happy Birthday! Notable People Born in 1931

DB 31998

Gorbachev: Heretic in the Kremlin by Dusko Doder and Louise Branson

Two journalists, until recently Moscow correspondents for the Washington Post and the Sunday Times of London, present an account of Mikhail Gorbachev's life and leadership-exposing both his strengths and his weaknesses. They describe a paradox in which he apparently has accumulated power for the purpose of relinquishing it. Bestseller.

DB 44460

Eva Perón

by Alicia Dujovne Ortiz

Born poor and illegitimate, Eva Peron reinvented herself as an actress and eventually as the wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron. By her death in 1952, she was both revered as a saint and vilified as a fascist. Ortiz uses testimony from people who knew Eva and declassified government documents to explore the woman behind the image.

DB 51138

Angels along the Way: My Life with Help From Above by Della Reese

Autobiography by the singer, television actress, and devout, lifelong Christian. Born Deloreese Patricia Early in a Detroit ghetto, she describes her childhood and early career as a gospel singer and offers gratitude to the "angels" who helped her throughout her life, both professionally and personally. Some strong language.

DB 58851

Ask Me Again Tomorrow: A Life in Progress by Olympia Dukakis

Academy Award-winning actress, director, and producer looks back on her life and decades-long career. Dukakis, a first generation Greek American born in 1931, discusses balancing two cultures and defying ethnic and gender bias to succeed, most notably in her breakout Moonstruck role, for which she won an Oscar in 1988. 2003.

Incurable Blues: the Troubles and Triumph of Blues Legend Hubert Sumlin by Will Romano

An authorized biography of Chicago blues guitarist Hubert Sumlin (born 1931), focusing on his musicianship and career. Discusses his work with Chester "Howlin' Wolf" Burnett and Muddy Waters among others. Examines his perseverance through alcoholism, cancer, and professional difficulties to influence another generation of master guitarists. Some strong language.

DB 65113

The Prince of Darkness: 50 Years Reporting in Washington by Robert D. Novak

Syndicated columnist and television pundit Robert Novak, self-dubbed "the prince of darkness," recalls five decades of political reporting in Washington, D.C. Highlights his conversion to Catholicism, gradual shift to conservatism, relationships with U.S. presidents from Eisenhower to George W. Bush, and 2003 outing of CIA employee Valerie Plame. Bestseller.

DB 67034

Up Till Now: the Autobiography

by William Shatner

Shatner reminisces about his life and acting career, poking fun at his own experiences. Describes playing Captain Kirk in the Star Trek series and starring in shows such as Boston Legal. Details his personal successes and tragedies, including the accidental death of his wife Narine. Some strong language.

DB 68658

The Genius: How Bill Walsh Reinvented Football and Created an NFL Dynasty by David Harris

Author uses first-person interviews to portray the career of San Francisco 49ers football coach Bill Walsh (1931-2007). Details Walsh's 1979 hiring by team owner Edward DeBartolo, the coach's invention of the "West Coast offense," and his college-draft selections, including Joe Montana. Some strong language.

DB 70550

Thank Heaven: a Memoir

by Leslie Caron

Autobiography of actress Leslie Caron, born in France in 1931. Caron reminisces about her wealthy upbringing, the war years, and her early work as a ballerina before describing her decades-long career as a Hollywood actress. Includes details of Caron's intimate relationships and struggle with alcoholism and depression.

Willie Mays: the Life, the Legend

by James S. Hirsch

Authorized biography of baseball outfielder Willie Mays, born in 1931 Alabama. Follows Mays from the Negro Leagues to the New York Mets. Highlights Mays's best games, including his astonishing catch when playing for the Giants in the 1954 World Series. Discusses his personal life and baseball's racial integration. Bestseller.

DB 71990

The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood by Jane Leavy

The author of Sandy Koufax (DB 54935) details twenty pivotal days in the life of New York Yankees slugger Mickey Mantle (1931-1995). Includes her own 1983 interview with "The Mick" and reminiscences of five hundred others to portray Mantle's remarkable talent and personal demons. Strong language. Bestseller.

DB 73428

Jeannie Out of the Bottle

by Barbara Eden

Actress Barbara Eden reminisces about her career, from her early days as a Hollywood contract player and chorus girl to her starring role on the 1960s television comedy I Dream of Jeannie, which brought her fame. Discusses her costars and family life.

DB 74074

How I Got This Way

by Regis Philbin

Memoir of talk-show host Regis Philbin (born 1931) recalls his climb to fame, including his stint on The Joey Bishop Show. Shares anecdotes about famous guests and their influence on him. Highlights working with morning cohosts Kathie Lee Gifford and Kelly Ripa. Foreword by Dave Letterman. Bestseller.

DB 76171

The Three of Us: Growing Up with Tammy and George by Georgette Jones

Memoir by the only child of country-western singer/songwriters Tammy Wynette and George Jones. Georgette, born in 1970, chronicles her parent's relationship, including their careers, divorce, and subsequent remarriages. Recalls Tammy's death in 1998 and discusses her own path and pursuit of a singing career.

Rita Moreno: a Memoir

by Rita Moreno

Eighty-two-year-old Hispanic recipient of Oscar, Tony, Emmy, and Grammy awards reflects on her life. Describes moving to New York with her Puerto Rican single mother and breaking into acting as a teen. Discusses her two great loves--Brando and her husband--and parenthood. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

Authors Born in 1931 and Their Works

Donald Barthelme

DB 69880

Hiding Man: a Biography of Donald Barthelme

by Tracy Daugherty

Biography of twentieth-century author Donald Barthelme (1931-1989), son of a Houston architect, whose brothers Frederick and Steven also became writers. Discusses Barthelme's personal life, including four marriages, alcoholism, and depression; and literary life--he became well-known for short stories published in the New Yorker and for "literary politicking" in PEN.

DB 71096

Forty Stories

by Donald Barthelme

Collection of short fiction by postmodernist Donald Barthelme (1931-1989). Contains "Porcupines at the University" and "Some of Us Had Been Threatening Our Friend Colby," recommended in the 2005 introduction by Dave Eggers.

Clive Cussler

DB 68120

Arctic Drift: A Dirk Pitt Novel

by Clive Cussler

Boaters mysteriously die in British Columbia, an explosion targets a scientist with a global-warming remedy, and U.S.-Canadian tensions rise. National Underwater and Marine Agency's Dirk Pitt and his offspring link the incidents to a long-ago arctic expedition and a present-day plot to exacerbate America's energy crisis.

The Assassin: Isaac Bell Adventure

by Clive Cussler

As Van Dorn private detective Isaac Bell strives to land a government contract to investigate John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil monopoly, the case takes a deadly turn. A sniper begins murdering opponents of Standard Oil, which sends Bell on a cross-country manhunt. Unrated.

DB 69719

Spartan Gold: Fargo Adventure

by Clive Cussler

Treasure-hunting couple Sam and Remi Fargo discover a World War II-era midget torpedo submarine in a Maryland swamp. Inside the craft they spot one of Napoleon Bonaparte's rare bottles of wine and begin searching for the entire collection--but they are not the only ones interested in finding it. Bestseller.

DB 73147

The Jungle: a Novel of the Oregon Files

by Clive Cussler

A powerful thirteenth-century weapon called the Dragon's Stare falls into the hands of a man intent on using it to bring down the U.S. government. Ex-CIA operative Juan Cabrillo and his crew on the Oregon race to foil the plot. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller.

E. L. Doctorow

DB 60676

The March: a Novel by E.L. Doctorow

This Civil War saga portrays the complex nature of General William Tecumseh Sherman as he leads Union troops through Georgia and the Carolinas. Describes the carnage and destruction that occur as well as the tender feelings that arise as the soldiers proceed. Commercial audiobook. Descriptions of sex, violence, and strong language.

DB 69642

Homer & Langley: a Novel

by E.L. Doctorow

Homer Collyer, the blind brother, and his older brother Langley, a WWI mustard-gas victim, become recluses in their Fifth Avenue brownstone, hoarding newspapers and collecting odd things--a model T Ford, typewriters, and surplus Army supplies--until they become imprisoned by their vast accumulations. Bestseller.

All the Time in the World: New and Selected Stories

by E.L. Doctorow

A dozen stories set in urban and suburban locales, modern and historical, where protagonists are at odds with their environment. In the title piece, a runner in a big city envisions the wilds of Mongolia. Some strong language.

DB 78414

Andrew's Brain: a Novel

by E.L. Doctorow

Andrew, a cognitive scientist, recites the details of his life to Doc, a psychologist. Andrew reflects on his life and failings as a husband and father and questions if he has failed as a human being. Some descriptions of sex.

William Goldman

DB 23285

Heat

by William Goldman

Off-beat detective Nick Escalante, a master handler of knives and edged weapons, faces the seamy underside of Las Vegas where he works for friends and clients as investigator, bodyguard, or avenger. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 58817

The Princess Bride: S. Morgenstern's Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure: the "Good Parts" Version by William Goldman

The most beautiful woman in the world falls in love with Westley, the perfect man. Their pending romance, however, is interrupted by fate and the wicked prince Humperdinck, ruler of Florin. Thirtieth anniversary edition of the classic fairy tale spoof features a 2003 introduction.

John Le Carré

DB 67864

A Most Wanted Man: a Novel by John Le Carré

Issa Karpov, a Chechen Muslim who has entered Germany illegally, uses human rights lawyer Annabel Richter to obtain his late father's millions from a shady British bank. Meanwhile the English, German, and American intelligence agencies all pursue Issa. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller.

Our Kind of Traitor

by John Le Carré

After teacher Perry Makepiece and his lawyer girlfriend Gail Perkins meet Russian money launderer Dmitri "Dima" Krasnov at an Antigua tennis resort, Dima asks for help defecting. British agents Hector Meredith and Luke Weaver get the case, and all players reunite in Paris. Strong language. Bestseller.

DB 76871

A Delicate Truth

by John Le Carré

A British government employee is knighted for his part in an anti-terrorism operation in Gibraltar. But three years later he and the secretary to the member of Parliament, who orchestrated the mission, find evidence of a cover-up and investigate. Strong language and some violence. Bestseller.

John McPhee

DB 63727

Uncommon Carriers

by John McPhee

New Yorker staff writer recounts travels with people who transport freight: riding coast-to-coast with an eighteen-wheel truck driver, cruising the Illinois River with a towboat pilot, and crossing the Midwest with a coal train conductor. Discusses a French sea captain school, lobster shipments, UPS delivery, and his companions' viewpoints.

DB 75296

Silk Parachute

by John McPhee

Ten essays by Pulitzer Prize-winner McPhee on a range of topics, including autobiographical reminiscences, examinations of various sports, and dinosaur-extinction theories, as discussed with his seven-year-old granddaughter.

Toni Morrison

DB 57353

Love

by Toni Morrison

Even after the death of seaside resort owner Bill Cosey, his women--widow Heed, granddaughter Christine, and mistress Celestial--continue their feuds. These members of the town's African American former elite reminisce about the man they loved and hated. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

A Mercy

by Toni Morrison

Colonial North America, 1680s. An Anglo-Dutch trader reluctantly accepts a young slave girl named Florens as payment for a bad debt. Her mother hopes the transaction will prove a mercy to Florens, but subsequent years in Jacob Vaark's household reveal the harsh reality of being under another's dominion. Some violence. Bestseller.

DB 74782

Home

by Toni Morrison

1950s. African American Frank Money, a Korean War veteran suffering from stress and alcoholism, leaves a Seattle mental hospital after learning that his sister Cee is gravely ill. Frank rescues Cee, taking her home to rural Georgia so that they may both heal. Violence and some strong language.

DB 81605

God Help the Child: a Novel

by Toni Morrison

Bride, who was rejected by her light-skinned mother when she was born for being too black, has made her life into one that many envy. She has her own company, a fortune, and a lover. Dark secrets from the past are coming home to roost, however. Unrated.

Alice Munro

DB 69954

Too Much Happiness: Stories

by Alice Munro

Ten short stories about family and relationships by Canadian author and winner of the 2009 Man Booker International Prize. The title piece imagines the professional and personal life of late-nineteenth-century Russian mathematician Sophia Kovalevsky. Some strong language. Bestseller.

DB 72489

Carried Away: a Selection of Stories

by Alice Munro

Seventeen short stories written by the award-winning Canadian author between 1968 and 2004. The first two, "Royal Beatings" and "The Beggar Maid," feature working-class Rose, who leaves her small town on a college scholarship. Foreword by Margaret Atwood. Some strong language.

Dear Life: Stories by Alice Munro

Fourteen short stories by Man Booker International Prize-winner Munro, including four semi-autobiographic tales set in Ontario. In "Train" a war veteran returns and moves in with an older farm woman for decades. In "Haven" a young teenager lives with relatives while her parents teach abroad. Bestseller.

DB 80546

Family Furnishings: Selected stories, 1995-2014

by Alice Munro

Twenty-four short stories from Nobel Prize winner. "The Bear Came Over the Mountain" features a man who had cheated on his wife through their marriage and is now doing his best to care for her as her memory fails. Some violence and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

Dan Rather

DB 48860

Deadlines and Datelines

by Dan Rather

Nearly one hundred essays collected from Rather's daily newspaper columns and radio programs, known as "Dan Rather Reporting." From the serious to the lighthearted, his articles cover news items in America and abroad, politics, and the Washington scene. Includes tributes to such people as his grandmother, Princess Diana, and Mickey Mantle. Bestseller.

DB 76694

Rather Outspoken: My Life in the News

by Dan Rather

Journalist Dan Rather reminisces about his sixty years as a reporter and the people he worked with and interviewed. Discusses his dismissal from CBS--after forty-four years-and claims the free press and broadcast news have become too intertwined with political and corporate interests.

Trevanian

DB 48968

Incident at Twenty Mile

by Trevanian

In 1898 Matthew, an enigmatic young man, walks into Twenty-Mile, a railway stop of fifteen residents. He cons his way into odd jobs and lives in the marshal's empty office. When three escaped convicts--all sadistic lunatics--occupy the town, Matthew rises to the occasion. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

DB 74476

The Eiger Sanction: a Novel

by Trevanian

Art professor and government assassin Jonathan Hemlock, who kills to pay for his black-market art collection, takes on a final assignment that involves scaling the Eiger in the Swiss Alps. Basis for 1975 Clint Eastwood movie. Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

Desmond Tutu

DB 51706

No Future Without Forgiveness

by Desmond Mpilo Tutu

Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, retired Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, discusses the importance of probing his nation's past, including misdeeds committed under apartheid. Reflects on his life and the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the 1990s; advocates a policy of combined remembrance and forgiveness.

DB 79101

The Book of Forgiving: the Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World by Desmond M. Tutu and Mpho A. Tutu

Nobel Peace Prize laureate and his daughter, both Anglican priests, discuss the process and benefits of forgiving. Contrasts the revenge cycle versus the forgiveness cycle. Includes meditations, rituals, and exercises to assist the reader.

Fay Weldon

DB 54387

The Bulgari Connection: a Novel

by Fay Weldon

Doris, the young and greedy second wife of British millionaire Barley Salt, becomes obsessed with a Bulgari necklace and the good fortune of Salt's first wife, Grace. Doris desperately attempts to own the necklace and ruin Grace's life in the process.

DB 76069

Habits of the House

by Fay Weldon

London, 1899. Eric Baum is the Earl of Dilberne's new financial advisor and lawyer. Baum and his wife crave society's acceptance--and the financial and social tribulations of the Dilberne family may be the key to getting it. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Gene Wolfe

DB 60301

The Knight

by Gene Wolfe

An American boy wanders from a forest cabin and is transported to a magical realm where he finds himself in the body of a grown man. Renamed Able of the High Heart, he undertakes a quest to obtain a dragon's special sword that will help him become a knight.

DB 72746

The Sorcerer's House

by Gene Wolfe

New parolee Baxter Dunn is surprised to discover his name on the deed of a large, mysterious old home. The former owner, Mr. Black, was a sorcerer, so the house exposes Baxter to fantastical wonders and mythical creatures. Some strong language.

Tom Wolfe

DB 53223

Hooking Up

by Tom Wolfe

Collection of essays on a wide range of cultural topics and the novella "Ambush at Fort Bragg." In "My Three Stooges," Wolfe retaliates against hostile reviews of his novel A Man in Full (DB 47041). In "Hooking Up," America at the turn of the millennium is observed.

Back to Blood: a Novel

by Tom Wolfe

Miami. Cop Nestor Camacho faces controversy after he rescues--and then arrests--a Cuban seeking asylum. Nestor also unravels fraud at a new art museum, meets a beautiful Haitian college student, investigates school violence, and deals with Russians and New Yorkers. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

The 1930s

It was the worst of times, thanks to the Great Depression, but also the best of times, thanks to amazing advancements in aviation, radio and film!

DB 45992: a Novel
Shiloh Autumn
by Bodie & Brock Thoene

To the Tuckers and other cotton farmers of Shiloh, Arkansas, the 1929 stock market crash was a remote event that seemed unrelated to their way of life. Then the cotton market collapses in 1931, causing the Tuckers to lose their farm and brave an arduous trek in search of a new life in California.

DB 54721: a Novel Raiders of Spanish Peaks by Zane Grey

Hoping the climate will be better for his health, John Lindsay buys a ranch and moves his family out west to Colorado. But when they arrive, they find they actually own a deserted military post where ranchers and cattle rustlers battle for control of the land. Some strong language.

DB 60882

Skyscraper: a Novel by Faith Baldwin

Twenty-two-year-old Lynn Harding is a modern girl of the 1930s who works in an office to support herself during the depression. Sharing an apartment and enjoying New York's entertainments, Lynn is no hurry to marry. When she falls in love she has tough choices to make.

Train from Marietta: a Novel

by Dorothy Garlock

Texas, 1933. A nefarious businessman abducts nurse Kate Tyler as she is traveling to San Francisco. Kate's wealthy father hires rancher Tate Castle to get her back, and the two fall in love despite their differences. Some descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language.

DB 65887

A Week from Sunday: a Novel

by Dorothy Garlock

Louisiana, 1935. Lawyer Richard Pope controls Adrianna Moore's inheritance but will share it--if she marries him. Adrianna flees and crashes her car into Quinn Baxter's truck. She agrees to help Quinn with his disabled brother, then falls in love. Strong language, some explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence.

DB 66754

The Supermob: How Sidney Korshak and his Criminal Associates Became America's Hidden Power Brokers

by Gus Russo

Asserts that the Supermob--capitalists who covertly fronted for organized crime--influenced the U.S. economy from the 1930s through the 1980s. Focuses on Chicagoborn Jewish attorney Sidney "the Fixer" Korshak, who allegedly brokered Hollywood and Mafia deals involving casino monopolies and land seized from interned Japanese Americans. Violence and strong language.

DB 66807

The Forgotten Man: a New History of the Great Depression by Amity Shlaes

Economics reporter analyzes the Great Depression era in the United States and posits that federal intervention in the economy lengthened its duration. Considers economic plans from members of Franklin Roosevelt's brain trust and alternate solutions of outsiders such as African American Father Divine and Alcoholics Anonymous founder Bill Wilson.

DB 67031

The Spies of Warsaw: a Novel

by Alan Furst

Warsaw, 1937. Colonel Jean-Franúois Mercier, French military attaché to Poland, spends his time socializing and recruiting spies. Mercier alerts his superiors to the threat of Nazi invasion but is ignored. Meanwhile he falls in love and rescues an agent. Some explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller.

Messenger of Truth: a Maisie Dobbs Novel

by Jacqueline Winspear

England, 1930s. Artist and WWI veteran Nick Bassington-Hope falls to his death from a scaffold while preparing for his gallery opening. Nick's twin sister, Georgina, hires Maisie Dobbs to prove he was murdered. Maisie discovers that Nick's masterpiece is missing and she searches for clues among her client's relatives.

DB 67834

Birds of a Feather: a Maisie Dobbs Novel

by Jacqueline Winspear

London, 1930s. Wealthy Joseph Waite hires private investigator Maisie Dobbs, a former battlefield nurse, to locate his missing thirty-two-year-old daughter, Charlotte. Maisie finds chilling links to Scotland Yard inspector Stratton's latest murder case and the Great War's terrible legacy.

DB 68182

Orient Express: An Entertainment

by Graham Greene

The lives of several passengers aboard the Orient Express become intertwined on a three-day journey from Ostend to Constantinople. Characters include an English chorus girl, a rich Jewish businessman, a spiteful journalist, a mysterious doctor, and a murderous burglar. Includes 2004 introduction by Christopher Hitchens.

DB 68183

Hello, Everybody!: the Dawn of American Radio

by Anthony Rudel

This social history of the birth of the radio industry recalls events, broadcasters, and personalities that transformed communications in the United States from the 1920s, through the Great Depression, and into the 1940s. Traces the growth of programs that changed entertainment, journalism, politics, religion, and sports.

DB 68645

Nothing to Fear: FDR's Inner Circle and the Hundred Days that Created Modern America

by Adam Cohen

Chronicles President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's first months in office beginning on March 4, 1933. Describes the relief programs presidential advisors Raymond Moley, Lewis Douglas, Henry Wallace, Harry Hopkins, and Frances Perkins established to alleviate effects of the economic depression of 1929, and examines the resulting transformations in national philosophy.

Soul of a People: the WPA Writers' Project Uncovers Depression America by David Taylor

History of the 1930s Federal Writers' Project, which employed writers to compile state guidebooks by interviewing local citizenry. Describes workers' experiences with the program and their consequent ability to escape Depression-era poverty. Includes samples from John Cheever, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, and others. Some strong language.

DB 68769

Anything Goes: a Grace and Favor Mystery by Jill Churchill

New York, 1931. Following the 1929 stock market crash, siblings Lily and Robert Brewster unexpectedly inherit the Hudson River Valley estate of their great-uncle Horatio. Lily and Robert move into the mansion--name it Grace and Favor Cottage--and discover that Horatio's recent boating death may not have been an accident.

DB 68787

In the Still of the Night: A Grace and Favor Mystery by Jill Churchill

New York State, 1932. Lily Brewster and her brother Robert decide to make money at Grace and Favor Cottage--the estate bequeathed to them by their great-uncle--by hosting parties where paying guests can hobnob with celebrities. Their first attempt, however, is marred by the murder of one rather unwelcome reveler.

DB 68945

The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope by Jonathan Alter

Concentrates on the beginning of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency in 1933 (the "Hundred Days"), when federal legislation was implemented to provide immediate relief from the effects of the Great Depression. Details the programs that were launched, including Social Security, and the failure to implement others, including universal healthcare.

DB 69160

Shanghai Girls: a Novel

by Lisa See

In 1937 Shanghai, after their gambling father loses everything, beautiful Pearl and May Chin are married off to two Chinese brothers living in Los Angeles. Escaping from the invading Japanese, the sisters arrive in California and experience unexpected difficulties as they adapt to a new life. Some violence. Bestseller

Plain Language: a Novel

by Barbara Wright

Mid-1930s. Virginia Mendenhall travels to Colorado to marry Alfred Bowen, a man she has met only twice. Virginia adjusts to ranch hardships, but as the drought and Depression worsen, tensions rise, secrets surface, and Virginia's troubled brother pays a visit. Some violence and some descriptions of sex. Spur Award.

DB 69471

Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-34 by Bryan Burrough

Discusses events that led to the FBI's 1933-1936 "war on crime" led by J. Edgar Hoover. Examines activities of John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd, Machine Gun Kelly, and Bonnie and Clyde to depict depression-era robbers and murderers. Violence and strong language. Bestseller.

DB 69750

American-made: the Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work by Nick Taylor

Chronicles the accomplishments and criticisms of the Works Projects Administration (WPA), from its creation by presidential act in 1935 to its dismantlement eight years later. Discusses WPA relief programs that trained workers and created public-works projects designed to improve the nation's schools, bridges, highways, dams, and military bases.

DB 69943

A Royal Pain: Royal Spyness Novel

by Rhys Bowen

London, 1930s. The queen asks Lady Georgiana, to chaperone Bavarian princess Hannelore, who the queen hopes will distract her son, the prince of Wales, from his unsuitable American lover. Hanni proves to be a handful, displaying penchants for shoplifting, slang--and communists. Murder ensues.

DB 70208

The Lacuna: a Novel by Barbara Kingsolver

An American youth in 1930s Mexico City, Harrison Shepherd works for artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera and their houseguest, Russian exile Lev Trotsky. Returning to the United States, Shepherd becomes a bestselling author, but his past associations raise suspicions during McCarthy's Communist witch hunt. Some strong language. Bestseller.

The Casebook of Sidney Zoom

by Erle Stanley Gardner

Ten short stories and novelettes written between 1930 and 1934 that feature Depression-era sleuth Sidney Zoom, champion of the downtrodden and master of disguise. Includes "Cheating the Chair" and other tales involving stolen jewels, confidence swindles, hidden fortunes, missing wills, disappearing bodies, and murder frames.

DB 70735

Rainwater: a Novel by Sandra Brown

In a time of drought and economic depression in 1934, Ella Barron runs her boardinghouse in Texas while caring for her son, Solly, and responds to the calm influence of one of her boarders, David Rainwater, while facing the tension and uncertainty around her. Some violence and some strong language.

DB 70855

Royal Flush: Royal Spyness Novel

by Rhys Bowen

1932. Lady Georgiana's latest business venture, a dinner-and-dancing escort service, ends in an awkward misunderstanding. To avoid scandal, Scotland Yard sends Georgiana to her ancestral Scottish estate to keep an amorous American woman from seducing the prince of Wales--and possibly stop a killer who is targeting the royal family.

DB 71071

The Kind One: a Novel by Tom Epperson

Los Angeles, 1930s. Amnesiac Danny "Two Gun" Landon has no memory of coming to work for mobster Bud Seitz. Bud asks Danny to look after his young mistress, Darla, who wants to escape. To save himself and his friends, Danny confronts his past. Violence and strong language.

DB 71142

The Mapping of Love and Death: A Maisie Dobbs Mystery by Jacqueline Winspear

England, 1932. An American couple hires investigator Maisie Dobbs after the body of their son Michael Clifton is discovered in France, buried in a collapsed Great War trench. The Cliftons want to find Michael's girlfriend, an English nurse. But after the parents are attacked, Maisie uncovers murder and larceny.

Mr. Shivers: a Novel

by Robert Jackson Bennett

The Great Depression. Marcus Connelly and three other men track a scar-faced murderer called Mr. Shivers--who killed Connelly's daughter--across the country. As Connelly plots revenge he uncovers a horrifying truth. Violence and strong language.

DB 71465

Dillinger's Wild Ride: the Year that Made America's Public Enemy Number One by Elliott J. Gorn

Chronicles the final year in the life of John Dillinger (1903-1934). Details the crime spree that began a month after his release from nine years in prison and ended with his death at the hands of federal agents. Describes bank robberies and shoot-outs and discusses Dillinger's lingering pop-culture presence.

DB 71801

The Invisible Bridge: a Novel

by Julie Orringer

An unforgettable story of three brothers, of history and love, of marriage tested by disaster, of a Jewish family's struggle against annihilation, and of the dangerous power of art in a time of war.

DB 71956

Dancing in the Dark: a Cultural History of the Great Depression by Morris Dickstein

Portrays Depression-Era political and social trends from 1929 to World War II. Discusses novels, plays, movies, architecture, photography, product design, and music of the time. Examines the function of art and media in a time of social crisis.

DB 72428

When the Dancing Stopped: the Real Story of the Morro Castle Disaster and its Deadly Wake

by Brian Hicks

The author uses files from the National Archives--including those from the FBI and Coast Guard--to investigate the September 8, 1934, fire aboard the luxury cruise ship Morro Castle in the midst of a storm off the New Jersey coast.

Death in a White Tie: a Novel

by Ngaio Marsh

As the London season opens, Chief Detective-Inspector Roderick Alleyn asks his old friend Lord Robert Gospell to help investigate blackmail in society circles. When Gospell is found murdered in a cab after reportedly identifying the culprit, Alleyn tracks both a blackmailer and a killer.

DB 73470

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Erik Larson

Follows the lives of U.S. ambassador William E. Dodd and his family, who moved to Berlin, Germany, in 1933. Discusses their attitudes toward the Nazi Party, obliviousness to Hitler's true character, and naive reactions to the persecution of Jews and Americans and the enforcement of stringent laws. Bestseller.

DB 73667

Franklin and Eleanor: an Extraordinary Marriage by Hazel Rowley

Portrays the marriage of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt as a radical partnership that helped both husband and wife achieve their ambitions and political goals. Discusses their extended family of close companions and lovers as well as Franklin's polio and Eleanor's social work. Some strong language.

DB 73689

Rules of Civility: a Novel

by Amor Towles

Manhattan, 1938. Young secretaries Katey Kontent and her roommate Eve Ross meet banker Tinker Grey while enjoying the nightlife. Eve takes up with Tinker, while Katey works her way into the upper echelons of society and earns a job with a publisher. Some strong language. Bestseller.

DB 74124

The Time in Between: a Novel

by María Dueñas

Morocco, 1936. Sira Quiroga, a young seamstress from Madrid, leaves home with her lover but is abandoned in North Africa. She creates a successful couture workshop and is recruited to work for the British cause against Germany. Translated from Spanish. Some violence and some strong language.

Mission to Paris: a Novel

by Alan Furst

Europe, 1938. Austrian-born Hollywood star Fredric Stahl is in Paris to make a movie when he encounters French fascists and Nazis who want to use him for propaganda. Instead, Stahl agrees to spy for the Americans. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

DB 75041

Little Man--What Now?: a Novel

by Hans Fallada

Germany, early 1930s. In the last days of the Weimar Republic, twenty-three-year-old salesman Johannes Pinneberg marries his pregnant, blue-collar girlfriend Emma, the daughter of a Communist union worker. Johannes loses his job and returns to Berlin where, like millions of others, his family is soon destitute.

DB 75097

Venetia Kelly's Traveling Show: a Novel

by Frank Delaney

Ireland. Looking back to 1932 when he was eighteen, Ben recalls the ways his life changed after his father inexplicably abandoned the farm to join ventriloquist Venetia's traveling show. Ben also fell in thrall to thirty-two-year-old Venetia, unaware of her underhanded grandfather's plans for Ben's family. Some strong language.

DB 75400

A Dublin Student Doctor: an Irish Country Novel

by Patrick Taylor

1930s, Trinity College. Medical student Fingal O'Reilly spends his days serving Dublin's poorest residents. He works his way through university after his father refuses to support his career choice and almost loses his girlfriend Kitty because of his dedication.

DB 75625

Live by Night: a Novel

by Dennis Lehane

Joe Coughlin's dad is a Boston cop, but Prohibition turns Joe into a small-time hood. He survives prison and becomes a crime boss in Florida and Cuba--but his fate is shaped by his choice in women. Violence, explicit descriptions of sex, and some strong language.

The Life of Objects: a Novel

by Susanna Moore

Ireland, 1938. Seventeen-year-old Beatrice Palmer, desperate to leave her hometown of Ballycarra, is thrilled when a German countess hires her to make lace for the Metzenburg family. Once in Germany, Beatrice is caught up in the outbreak of war. Violence.

DB 75975

Hard Twisted: a Novel by C. Joseph Greaves

A tale based on a true story finds the 13-year-old daughter of a homeless man lured by a charismatic drifter to Depression-era Texas, where she is forced to participate in a year-long crime spree that culminates in the notorious Greenville "skeleton murder" trial of 1935.

DB 76143

Smoke Portrait: a Novel

by Trilby Kent

1930s. Young Englishwoman Glen Phayre volunteers for pen-pal duties with European prisoners to help improve their English. Her letter is misdirected and falls into the hands of Belgian schoolboy Marten Kuypers. Marten pretends to be the prisoner and he and Glen share their lives as war looms. Some violence.

DB 76477

On the Eve: the Jews of Europe Before the Second World War by Bernard Wasserstein

Professor examines the diverse Jewish communities within 1930s European and Soviet society. Posits that cultural assimilation and other factors led to factionalism and internal disarray and left Jews ill-equipped to confront growing anti-Semitism. Violence.

DB 76504

The Island of Second Sight: From the Applied Recollections of Vigoleis by Albert Vigoleis Thelen

1931. Vigoleis and Beatrice travel from Amsterdam to the island of Mallorca to care for Beatrice's brother, who telegraphed them of his imminent death. They arrive to find him in perfect health and are soon caught up in the looming Spanish Civil War. Translated from German. Strong language.

The Teleportation Accident: a Novel

by Ned Beauman

Berlin, 1931. Egon Loeser develops a stagecraft machine that he calls the Teleportation Device. It has unforeseen powers, but Egon's preoccupation with sexual conquests prevent him from fully understanding his invention's abilities--and limitations. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 76906

The Midwife of Hope River: a Novel

by Patricia Harman

1930s. Wanted in two states, widow Patience Murphy moved to West Virginia two years ago to hide her past as a union organizer. Working as a midwife, Patience takes in black teenager Bitsy and assists veterinarian Dr. Hester. Then the Ku Klux Klan shows up. Some strong language.

DB 77138

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

by Daniel James Brown

Recounts the accomplishments of nine working-class athletes from the University of Washington who beat elite teams at home and abroad and won the gold medal for rowing at the 1936 Nazi-orchestrated Berlin Olympics. Bestseller.

DB 77171

Too Many Cooks: a Nero Wolfe Mystery

by Rex Stout

Armchair detective Nero Wolfe, along with his sidekick Archie, braves the outside world to attend a gathering in West Virginia of great chefs. But when a hated guest is murdered and Wolfe must intervene, the culinary holiday loses its savor. Some violence and some strong language.

DB 77175

Under a Texas Sky: a Novel

by Dorothy Garlock

1932. Anna Finnegan grew up poor in 1920s Chicago but became a stage actress. While shooting her first movie in Texas she meets blacksmith Dalton Barnes. The two join forces to find out who is trying to sabotage the film. Unrated.

The Family Corleone: a Novel

by Edward Falco

New York, 1933. The Corleones and other crime families have prospered under Prohibition, but that may change soon. Vito Corleone pushes his seventeen-year-old son to become a legitimate businessman. Prequel to The Godfather (DB 25677). Based on an unpublished Mario Puzo screenplay. Unrated. Bestseller.

DB 77679

Songs of Willow Frost: a Novel

by Jamie Ford

Seattle, 1934. Twelve-year-old Chinese American William Eng, who was orphaned at age seven, goes to see a movie on his birthday. When he sees Chinese movie star Willow Frost on the screen, he becomes convinced that she is his mother and searches for Willow.

DB 78364

The Vampire Files. Volume 1

by P.N. Elrod

Three novels featuring undead journalist-turned-private investigator Jack Fleming in 1930s Chicago. In Bloodlist Jack must solve his own murder. Also includes Lifeblood and Bloodcircle. Violence and some strong language.

DB 78801

The Mad Sculptor: the Maniac, the Model, and the Murder that Shook the Nation by Harold Schechter

Relates the brutal 1937 murders of model Veronica Gedeon, her mother, and their boarder by an artist obsessed with Veronica's sister. Lurid press attention and the presence of celebrity defense attorney Samuel Leibowitz fed the 1930s' appetite for sensational homicides. Some violence and some descriptions of sex.

DB 78964

China Dolls: a Novel

by Lisa See

In 1938, three girls competing for showgirl roles at San Francisco's "Oriental" nightclub become friends. American-born Chinese Grace fled an abusive father; Helen's Chinese family has deep Chinatown roots; and Japanese Ruby is passing as Chinese. Then everything changes with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Unrated.

House of Earth: a Novel

by Woody Guthrie

Lost novel by American folksinger Woody Guthrie tells the tale of Tike and Ella May Hamlin, a couple struggling to plant roots in the arid land of the Texas Panhandle in the 1930s. Edited and introduced by Douglas Brinkley and Johnny Depp. Some descriptions of sex.

DB 79038

Sing for Me: a Novel

by Karen Halvorsen Schreck

Chicago, 1937. Out one night with her cousin, devout Rose tastes forbidden fruit by going to a jazz club--Calliope's. Conflicted about her love of earthly music, she soon finds herself singing with the Chess Men--and tempted by African-American pianist Theo.

DB 79052

Long Man: a Novel by Amy Greene

Tennessee, 1936. In three days, the town of Yuneetah will be flooded as the Tennessee Valley Authority dams up the Long Man River. Annie Clyde Dodson is fighting eviction, determined that her three-year-old daughter Gracie will inherit the land. But Gracie is missing and cannot be found. Some violence.

DB 79065

The Case is Closed: a Miss Silver Mystery

by Patricia Wentworth

Miss Silver must use all of her sleuthing skills to uncover the culprit in the slippery Everton case, especially since the wrong man has already spent a year in jail for a murder he didn't commit! Unrated.

DB 79176

The Twenty-Year Death

by Ariel S. Winter

Three hard-boiled interconnected novels written in the styles of different noted crime writers--Georges Simenon, Raymond Chandler, and Jim Thompson--cover two decades. In Malniveau Prison, murdered inmates are found outside the prison in 1931 France. Includes The Falling Star and Police at the Funeral. Some violence and some strong language.

Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932: a Novel

by Francine Prose

Letters and book excerpts paint a portrait of the patrons of the Chameleon Club of Paris during the 1930s, with Louisianne--Lou--Villars at their center. Lou is a cross-dressing lesbian who finds success in race car driving, eventually collaborating with the Nazis. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

DB 79379

The Little Girl who Fought the Great Depression: Shirley Temple and 1930s America by John F. Kasson

Historian examines the Great Depression in America in the 1930s and how it led to the development of Shirley Temple as one of the most famous people in the country. Discusses the impact of her movies on the economy of the day, race relations, and marketing.

DB 79716

Lisette's List: a Novel by Susan Vreeland

Lisette, twenty, and her husband leave Paris in 1937 to care for André's grandfather, Pascal, in Provence. Lisette resents leaving the city, but she is enchanted by Pascal's art collection. Left alone when war breaks out, Lisette vows to recover the precious paintings, hidden by André when called to fight. Unrated.

DB 79809

Burmese Days: a Novel

by George Orwell

Flory lives amongst the British expatriates in Burma where he works as a timber merchant. Discontented with his life, he helps his friend Dr. Veraswami, who is being hounded by a corrupt magistrate. In the midst of this, Flory falls in love with spinster Elizabeth Lackersteen. Some violence.

DB 80051

In the Night of Time: a Novel by Antonio Muñoz Molina

1936. Ignacio Abel arrives at Penn Station in New York, leaving his wife and family behind in war-torn Madrid as he searches for his American lover. He reflects on the events that have brought him to this moment. Translated from the Spanish. Some violence.

Euphoria: a Novel

by Lily King

New Guinea, 1930s. Anthropologist Andrew Bankson has been living among the tribes of the Sepik River for two years when Nell Stone and her husband Fen arrive. The relationships between Andrew, Nell, and Fen throw their world into chaos. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence.

DB 80668

Falling from Horses: a Novel

by Molly Gloss

Oregon, 1938. Bud Frazer, a young ranch hand, leaves home after the death of his sister to become a Hollywood stunt rider. On the way, he meets a young, aspiring writer named Lily Shaw, also headed to Hollywood, with whom he strikes up a kinship destined to withstand the tests of time.

DB 81048

Hot Lead, Cold Iron: a Mick Oberon Job Mystery

by Ari Marmell

In 1930s Chicago Mick Oberon works as a private investigator, having turned his back on his fae heritage to pass as human. But the fae world pulls him back, when a prominent gangster hires Mick to find his daughter, swapped with a changeling years before. Some violence and some strong language.

DB 81114

West of Sunset: a Novel

by Stewart O'Nan

1937. F. Scott Fitzgerald heads to Hollywood. He leaves behind his wife, Zelda, in a private mental institution and his daughter, Scottie, in the care of family and friends. Churning out short stories and scripts, his health deteriorates and new love beckons. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

DB 81430

The Wild Girl: a Novel

by Jim Fergus.

1932. Seventeen-year-old orphan Ned Giles records joining an expedition into the Sierra Madre to recover a young boy believed to have been kidnapped by Apaches three-and-a-half years earlier. A girl may be the key to resolving the boy's disappearance. Violence and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Butcher's Road: a Novel

by Lee Thomas

Former wrestler Butch Cardinal, now muscle for a mobster in 1932 Chicago, is on the run after implicating someone in a murder he witnessed. Holding the parcel that belonged to the dead man, Butch tries to uncover the secrets of the magical trinket. Violence and strong language.

DB 81622

Appointment with Death: a Hercule Poirot Mystery

by Agatha Christie

While traveling in Petra, the detestable Mrs. Boynton becomes a corpse, and a puncture mark on her wrist is the one clue to how she died. Detective Hercule Poirot has only twenty-four hours to solve the mystery.

DB 81825

Saint Mazie: a Novel by Jami Attenberg

Fictitious diary of Mazie Phillips, a real woman who roamed the streets of Manhattan in the 1930s, handing out money for food, drinks, and health care. Mazie recalls taking tickets at her brother-in-law's cinema at age ten and celebrates her long-term love affair with a sea captain. Unrated.

DB 82031

The Thunder of Giants: a Novel

by Joel Fishbane

Andorra Kelsey, who stands nearly eight feet tall, is hired in 1937 to play the role of famed giantess Anna Swan, a member of P. T. Barnum's sideshow. Both Anna's and Andorra's lives twist and turn as they enter show business and discover love for themselves and others. Some strong language.

DB 81839

The Truth According to Us: a Novel

by Annie Barrows

1938. As punishment for refusing to marry the man of her father's choosing, Layla Beck is forced to work for the WPA Writers' Project. She heads to Macedonia, West Virginia, where she befriends members of the once-prominent Romeyn family. Secrets of the night their factory burned come to light. Unrated.

Prisoner of Night and Fog: a Novel

by Anne Blankman

Munich, 1931. Gretchen, the favorite niece of Adolf Hitler, is torn between duty and love after meeting a fearless and handsome young Jewish reporter. Some violence. For senior high and older readers.

For the Love of Libraries and Defenders of the Freedom to Read "A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life." ~Henry Ward Beecher

DB 26993

Treasure: a Novel by Clive Cussler

When the great library of Alexandria was sacked in A.D. 391, perhaps some of its fabulous art treasures and volumes from its library escaped the flames and were ferried across the Atlantic. This is the premise of a suspense caper that features green-eyed Dirk Pitt, a James Bond type whom "no woman could completely possess." Some strong language. Bestseller.

DB 39874

Original Sin: a Dalgliesh Mystery

by P.D. James

Adam Dalgliesh and his Scotland Yard cohorts are looking into murders at Innocent House, the offices of London publishing house Peverell Press. On her first day of work, temporary typist Mandy Price finds the body of editor Sonia Clements. Soon the managing director, Gerard Etienne, is found dead with the office mascot, stuffed snake Hissing Sid, in his mouth. Also a manuscript has been altered and some illustrations have disappeared. Bestseller.

DB 49490

Murder at the Library of Congress

by Margaret Truman: a Capital Crimes Mystery

Annabel Reed-Smith is happily ensconced at the Library of Congress's Hispanic room researching an article on Christopher Columbus and his aide Las Casas, whose lost diaries are rumored to reveal hidden treasure. When she finds the expert librarian on the subject murdered, Annabel and her husband, Mac, investigate. Some violence.

America's Library: the Story of the Library of Congress, 1800-2000 by James Conaway

A history of this cultural institution--often considered the world's greatest library--and the thirteen Librarians of Congress who guided its development. Discusses its transformation from modest legislative resource to the vast national library of the United States. Describes some of the variety found in its diverse collection of over 115 million items.

DB 61232

The Twelfth Card: a Lincoln Rhyme Novel by Jeffery Deaver

After African American teenager Geneva Settle is attacked at a Manhattan library while conducting genealogical research, quadriplegic detective Lincoln Rhyme and his assistant Amelia Sachs investigate. When Geneva continues to be stalked the evidence ultimately leads to a post-Civil War family secret. Violence and strong language.

DB 66149

The Uncommon Reader: a Novel by Alan Bennett

England. When the royal dogs stray into a mobile library parked near the palace, the Queen feels obligated to borrow a book. She soon develops an obsession with reading that changes her worldviews, distracts her from official duties, and prompts her to write her own masterpiece--with surprising consequences. Some strong language. Bestseller.

DB 67555

Die for Love: a Jacqueline Kirby Mystery by Elizabeth Peters

Jacqueline Kirby, a librarian at Coldwater College in Nebraska, attends the New York convention of the Historical Romance Writers of the World. When a muckraking columnist drops dead at a cocktail party while surrounded by enemies, Jacqueline believes it's murder. The police are skeptical, but Jacqueline stalks the killer.

DB 67516

Dewey: the Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron

Spencer, Iowa, public library director Vicki Myron describes finding a kitten in the book drop in 1988. Named Dewey Readmore Books by library staff, the feline became an increasingly famous mascot over the next nineteen years. Myron also discusses her divorce, single parenthood, breast cancer scare, and love of librarianship. Bestseller.

The Seventh Sinner: a Jacqueline Kirby Mystery

by Elizabeth Peters

Jean Suttman, one of seven scholars studying in Rome, discovers a fellow student dying after a brutal attack in an ancient subterranean temple. When small accidents befall Jean with disturbing regularity, she fears for her own life and contacts her new friend, librarian Jacqueline Kirby, for help.

DB 68515

Dylan: a Novel

by Linda Lael Miller

Rodeo champion Dylan Creed returns home to his Stillwater Springs, Montana, ranch with his two-year-old daughter Bonnie after Bonnie's mother abandons her. Dylan takes Bonnie to story hour and runs into ex-lover, librarian Kristy Madison--and their romance rekindles. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

DB 68796

Running Hot: a Novel by Jayne Ann Krentz

After escaping a psychic-blast murder attempt, high-level aura reader Grace Renquist became a librarian for the paranormal Arcane Society. Now in need of her talent, the Society sends her to Maui, assigning ex-cop aura talent Luther Malone as her bodyguard. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 69283

Lamentation: A Novel

by Ken Scholes

An ancient weapon destroys the city of Windwir and its great Androfrancine library. Isaak, the sole survivor and a metal man, claims responsibility. But Rudolfo, Lord of the Ninefold Forest Houses, suspects another is the culprit--and realizes that the Named Lands will soon be at war.

DB 69530

Schemers: a Nameless Detective Novel

by Bill Pronzini

The Nameless Detective investigates the case of Gregory Pollexfen, whose valuable mystery books were stolen from his locked San Francisco home library. Meanwhile Nameless's associate Tamara is in love, and his cohort Jake seeks a stalker with no apparent connection to his victims. Some violence and some strong language.

How to Murder the Man of Your Dreams

by Dorothy Cannell

The library league throws a fundraiser featuring handsome romance-novel cover model Karisma. Karisma brings his agent, Mrs. Swabucher, owner of the escort service through which Ellie met her husband. Ellie tries to keep her secret while coping with her cousin (and nemesis), with two-year-old twins--and with murder.

DB 69921

Alexandria: a Marcus Didius Falco Novel

by Lindsey Davis

Egypt, A.D. 77. Informer Marcus Didius Falco, his wife Helena Justina, their two young daughters, and Marcus's brother-in-law journey to Alexandria to visit an uncle. When Theon, the head of the Great Library, is murdered after dining with the family, Marcus and Helena investigate and discover deadly academic politics.

DB 70699

Lethal Legacy: a Novel

by Linda Fairstein

Assistant D.A. Alexandra Cooper investigates the home invasion and possible sexual assault of antique-map conservator Tina Barr. Tina refuses to cooperate, then disappears. The investigation leads Cooper to the New York Public Library and a world of socialites, antiquities collectors, and thieves. Some violence and some strong language.

DB 71219

The Black Cat: a Richard Jury Mystery

by Martha Grimes

New Scotland Yard superintendent Richard Jury investigates the murder of a librarian dressed like a well-heeled call girl, whose body is found behind the Black Cat pub in Chesham. Then similar women are killed in London. Meanwhile Jury must work through his feelings toward his hospitalized lover. Strong language.

DB 71841

The Case of the Missing Books: a Mobile Library Mystery

by Ian Sansom

Londoner Israel Armstrong arrives in Tumdrum, Northern Ireland, to begin his librarian job, only to learn the library closed--permanently. After being reassigned as driver of the decrepit bookmobile, Israel discovers that all of the books are missing and sets about finding them.

Neighborhood Watch: a Novel

by Cammie McGovern

Twelve years after she's wrongly imprisoned for killing her neighbor while sleepwalking, librarian Betsy Treading is released based on DNA evidence. As she now begins her own investigation into the murder, Betsy learns startling things about herself and her suburban neighbors. Some strong language.

DB 72629

A Discovery of Witches: a Novel

by Deborah Harkness

After scholar and witch Diana Bishop requests an alchemical manuscript from the depths of Oxford's Bodleian Library, she finds the magical power within the leather cover disturbing and hastily sends it back. But the book's reemergence causes a chain reaction through the paranormal community. Descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

DB 72898

Dewey's Nine Lives: the Legacy of the Small-Town Library Cat Who Inspired Millions by Vicki Myron, with Bret Witter

Author recounts more memories of Dewey, who warmed the hearts of readers in Spencer, Iowa, and elsewhere. Also shares anecdotes received from correspondents around the country about other cats.

DB 73670

Mr. Dixon Disappears: a Mobile Library Mystery

by Ian Sansom

Tumdrum, Northern Ireland. British mobile librarian and amateur sleuth Israel Armstrong is suspected of robbing a department store and kidnapping the owner. Hoping to clear his name, Israel sets out to find the missing man and meets local characters along the way. Some strong language.

DB 73808

The Information: a History, a Theory, a Flood by James Gleick

Chronicles the history of humanity's efforts to store, access, and communicate information--from Paleolithic cave paintings to early-twenty-first-century search engines. Discusses prominent inventors Charles Babbage, Ada Byron, Samuel Morse, Alan Turing, and Claude Shannon.

The Bad Book Affair: a Mobile Library Mystery

by Ian Sansom

Northern Ireland bookmobile librarian Israel Armstrong lends fourteen-year-old Lyndsay Morris, the Goth daughter of a local politician, a copy of a banned book. When Lyndsay disappears, Israel becomes a suspect. He and his colleague Ted Carson search the county for the missing teen.

DB 74661

Passion Becomes Her: a Novel

by Shirlee Busbee

Gentleman farmer Asher Cordell meets his neighbor Juliana Greeley, a widow, in the library of the marquis of Ormsby. Juliana is searching for the letters the marquis is using to blackmail her sister into marrying him. Asher and Juliana fall in love while seeking justice. Some descriptions of sex.

DB 74667

The Book of the Seven Delights: A Novel

by Betina Krahn

Boston librarian Abigail uncovers a journal at the British Museum that pinpoints the location of the long-lost library of Alexandria. Englishman Apollo, a former French legionnaire, assists Abigail on her way to Morocco, rescues her from kidnappers, and falls in love. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 74779

Getting Old is Murder: a Gladdy Gold Mystery

by Rita Lakin

Seventy-five-year-old Gladdy Gold, a retired New York librarian, lives in the Lanai Gardens apartment complex in Fort Lauderdale. Gladdy is suspicious when one of her elderly neighbors dies, but the death of her best friend Francie sends heartbroken Gladdy into sleuth mode to find the murderer. Some strong language.

DB 74810

Curiosity Thrilled the Cat: a Magical Cats Mystery by Sofie Kelly

After she rescues two stray cats, small-town librarian Kathleen Paulson discovers there may be more to felines Owen and Hercules than normal kitty behavior. When a murder disrupts a music festival and Kathleen becomes the prime suspect, Owen and Hercules help her to solve the crime.

Summer Nights: a Fool's Gold Novel

by Susan Mallery

Fool's Gold, California. Rancher Shane Stryker, still smarting from his recent divorce, is wary of fiery librarian Annabelle Weiss. But when Annabelle approaches Shane for horseback-riding lessons, the attraction between the two builds. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 75145

Sleight of Paw: a Magical Cats Mystery

by Sofie Kelly

Following the events in Curiosity Thrilled the Cat (DB 74810), librarian Kathleen Paulson knows that her two feline friends Owen and Hercules possess odd magical abilities. When Kathleen finds elderly Agatha Shepherd dead in an alley, Kathleen, Owen, and Hercules--along with a cute police detective--search for the killer.

DB 75458

An Unsuitable Bride: a Novel

by Jane Feather

England, 1763. Viscount Bradley requires all of his nephews to marry a fallen woman in order to inherit his wealth. Peregrine, the last nephew to wed, meets librarian Alexandra, falls in love, and learns her secrets. Sequel to A Wedding Wager (DB 73701). Explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 76368

Chance of a Lifetime: a Harmony Novel

by Jodi Thomas

Harmony, Texas. Librarian Emily Tomlinson organizes a writing club while reconnecting with childhood friend Tannon Parker. Meanwhile, female marshal Trace Adams protects attorney Rick Matheson after an attempt on his life and teen musician Beau Yates longs for a girlfriend. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 76695

The Cherry Cola Book Club: a Novel

by Ashton Lee

Librarian Maura Beth Mayhew must increase her small Cherico, Mississippi, library's circulation or face closure. To convince the town council that the library is viable Maura Beth starts a book club, where the members share food, stories, and love, as well as literature.

That Night on Thistle Lane: a Novel

by Carla Neggers

Librarian Phoebe O'Dunn must summon up the courage to live out her own fairy tale when a threat to the town leads her to Noah Kendrick, who, unbeknownst to her, is the unforgettable man she met at a masquerade ball in Boston. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 77904

Innocence: a Novel by Dean Koontz

With a face that has driven him into solitude, deformed Addison only explores the city at night. While visiting a closed library, he witnesses an evil curator attack goth girl Gwyneth and decides to help her--embroiling himself in a mystery. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller.

DB 79611

Cat Trick: a Magical Cats Mystery

by Sofie Kelly

When Mayville Heights librarian Kathleen Paulson discovers the body of the unlikeable owner of a tour company on the boardwalk, she and her sleuthing cats can't help but get involved in the investigation--even if her beau, Detective Marcus Gordon, would rather she didn't. Unrated

DB 80256

Books Can Be Deceiving; Due or Die; Book, Line and Sinker; Read It and Weep; On Borrowed Time

by Jenn McKinlay

Books one through five, written between 2011 and 2014, in the series featuring library director and amateur sleuth Lindsey Norris of Briar Creek, Connecticut. In Books Can Be Deceiving, Beth Stanley, Lindsey's friend and employee and an aspiring children's author, is suspected of murdering her famous-writer boyfriend.

DB 80291

The Strange Library: a Novel

by Haruki Murakami

A young man goes to the library on what he assumes will be a routine visit. Sent to a hidden corner of the basement, he encounters an old man who imprisons him and forces him to read books on esoteric subjects. Unrated.

The Boston Girl: a Novel

by Anita Diamant

When Addie's granddaughter asks about her life, Addie recounts growing up in Boston as the daughter of immigrants who did not trust the opportunities America affords their children. But when Addie joined a library group, her world opened up. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

DB 81214

This Book Is Overdue: How Librarians and Cybrarians Can Save Us All by Marilyn Johnson

Author of The Dead Beat (DB 81116) and Lives in Ruins (DB 80738) explores the careers of librarians and other information professionals. Discusses professional realities, stereotypes, and popular culture representations, and profiles librarians working in a variety of roles.

DB 82147

BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More than Ever in the Age of Google by John Palfrey

Former law professor and founding chairman of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) examines the importance and role of public libraries in the twenty-first century and beyond. Examines lessons learned from the development period of the DPLA and argues for a reexamination of public libraries core strengths.

Authors and Writers...Creating Worlds with Words "Every secret of a writer's soul, every experience of his life, every quality of his mind, is written large in his works."

-Virginia Woolf

DB 49971

The Hook: A Novel by Donald E. Westlake

Authors Bryce Proctorr and Wayne Prentice renew an old acquaintance when they run into each other in the New York Public Library. Each author is currently experiencing publishing problems, and they decide to combine their efforts--in a murderous collaboration. Strong language and some violence. Bestseller.

Bell, Book, and Scandal: a Jane Jeffry Mystery

by Jill Churchill

Hoping for advice on her new manuscript, amateur sleuth Jane Jeffry attends a mystery writers' convention with her friend Shelley. Investigating after an editor is poisoned and a book-bashing reviewer is attacked, Jane uncovers plagiarism and hidden resentments. Some strong language.

DB 59549

Murder at Union Station: A Capital Crimes Novel by Margaret Truman

Washington, D.C. The subject of Richard Marienthal's latest book, mobster-turned-informant Louis Russo, is murdered at the train station before he can testify for the government. Marienthal realizes that material in his manuscript threatens to expose secrets in high places and endanger his fiancée and himself. Some strong language.

DB 66338

American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work by Susan Cheever

Novelist explores the relationships among five writers of the transcendentalist movement who clustered around the home of wealthy Ralph Waldo Emerson in Concord, Massachusetts, during 1840-1868. Highlights their intertwined families and the love affairs that contributed to the creation of their literary masterpieces.

DB 66425

Diary of a Bad Year: a Novel

by J.M. Coetzee

Australia. Aging South African writer JC is penning essays for a forthcoming book in which he and others expound on various contentious subjects. JC hires Anya, his beautiful neighbor who calls him Señor C, as his secretary. Anya's lover Alan grows increasingly jealous and schemes to defraud JC.

DB 67556

Looking for Anne of Green Gables: the Story of L.M. Montgomery and Her Literary Classic

by Irene Gammel

Biography of Canadian novelist Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) that explains her creation of Anne Shirley, the main character of the 1908 bestseller Anne of Green Gables (DB 56114). Details Montgomery's private life and relates its influences on her writing.

Tangled Up in You: a Novel

by Rachel Gibson

True-crime writer Maddie Dupree arrives in Truly, Idaho, to write a book about a decades-old crime--a wife killed her bar-owner husband, his girlfriend waitress, and herself. The murdered husband's son falls for Maddie, unaware she is the waitress's daughter. Explicit descriptions of sex and strong language.

DB 67294

Wit's End: A Novel by Karen Joy Fowler

Teacher Rima Lanisell visits her godmother Addison Early in Santa Cruz, California. Addison, a famous mystery writer, was once an intimate friend of Rima's father, and she named a character in her series after him. Rima probes her father's connection to Addison--and to a real-life murder. Some strong language.

DB 68109

Words Without Borders: the World Through the Eyes of Writers: an Anthology edited by Samantha Schnee, Alane Salierno Mason, and Dedi Felman

Translated stories, essays, poems, and excerpts by twenty-eight writers from twenty-one countries including Bosnia, China, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, and Nigeria. In Egyptian writer Gamal al-Ghitani's "A Drowsy Haze," a Cairo man prepares for death. In Norwegian writer Johan Harstad's "Vietnam. Thursday," a psychologist interviews a napalm-burned refugee.

DB 68138

The Last Good Kiss: a Novel

by James Crumley

While retrieving alcoholic writer Abraham Trahearne from a drinking binge, Montanabased private investigator C.W. Sughrue agrees to look for a barmaid's missing daughter. Teenaged Betty Sue ran away to San Francisco ten years ago and has not been heard from since. Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex.

DB 68379

Looking for Rachel Wallace: a Spenser Novel

by Robert B. Parker

Rachel Wallace, a feminist author whose latest book targets "people in high places" who discriminate against gay women, hires Boston PI Spenser as a bodyguard. But Wallace is kidnapped on Spenser's watch and he frantically tries to find her. Violence and strong language.

Deadlier Than the Pen: a Diana Spaulding Mystery

by Kathy Lynn Emerson

New York City, 1888. Editor Horatio Foxe asks widowed reporter Diana Spaulding to interview Damon Bathory, a gothic author whose book tour has met with two murders. Diana pursues Damon, becomes stranded on a train during a blizzard, and falls in love with Dr. Ben Northcote of Maine.

DB 68828

Cat in a Sapphire Slipper: a Midnight Louie Mystery by Carole Nelson Douglas

Las Vegas. Public relations ace Temple Barr's romance novelist aunt becomes engaged to rumored ex-mobster Aldo Fontana. Bachelor-party attendees end up at the Sapphire Slipper brothel, where Temple's radio-talk-show-host fiancé, former priest Matt Devine, finds the body of a murdered prostitute. Luckily feline sleuth Midnight Louie has tagged along.

DB 68886

Radical Innocent: Upton Sinclair

by Anthony Arthur

Biography of novelist and reformer Upton Sinclair (1878-1968). Discusses Sinclair's literary and political career and his socialist philosophy that was reflected in his books including The Jungle (RC 52961). Covers his two marriages, relationship with his son, and friendships with Hollywood stars.

DB 68918

Graham Greene: a Life in Letters edited by Richard Greene

Editor presents a compilation of letters from noted twentieth-century British writer Graham Greene (1904-1991). The correspondence reveals Greene's religious, political, literary, and personal concerns and describes his travels, his sentiments about suffering in the world, and empathy for his family and friends.

DB 69087

White Heat: the Friendship of Emily Dickinson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson by Brenda Wineapple

Portrays reclusive poet Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) of Amherst, Massachusetts, and Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823-1911), reform-minded writer for the Atlantic Monthly and one of Dickinson's first publishers. Describes the beginning of their friendship in 1862 and its development through letters and poems over the course of Dickinson's life.

A Quiche Before Dying: a Jane Jeffry Mystery

by Jill Churchill

Sleuth widow Jane Jeffry enrolls in a writing course that is also attended by Agnes Pryce, a nasty local author who insults fellow classmates and the teacher. At a potluck dinner Agnes is fatally poisoned after eating Jane's quiche. Jane investigates while she pens a book. Some strong language.

DB 69404

Relentless: a Novel by Dean Koontz

When bestselling novelist Cullen "Cubby" Greenwich learns his newest book has been savagely panned by major literary critic Shearman Waxx, Cubby's wife suggests he ignore the review. But Cubby orchestrates a meeting with Shearman that endangers Cubby's family. Some violence and some strong language.

DB 69531

Home Safe: a Novel by Elizabeth Berg

The husband of Chicago author Helen Ames passes away unexpectedly and she becomes overly dependent on her adult daughter. In need of additional income, Helen decides to teach a writing workshop for adults. With assistance from her students, and a developing love interest, Helen embarks upon a new life.

DB 69563

Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously

by Julie Powell

New York, 2002. The author recounts learning to cook by preparing every recipe in Julia Child's Mastering the Art of French Cooking. Describes the ways her culinary undertaking--and the blog she wrote about it--transformed her life from miserable to fulfilled in 365 days. Some strong language. Bestseller.

DB 69786

Gabriel García Márquez: a Life

by Gerald Martin

Official biography of the 1982 Nobel Prize-winning writer. Highlights Márquez's early years (born 1927 in Colombia) and his political and literary friendships, social activism, and writing style. Discusses the influence of his private life on his novels, such as One Hundred Years of Solitude (RC 59490). Some strong language.

Laura Rider's Masterpiece: a Novel

by Jane Hamilton

Wisconsin. Laura Rider, who has sworn off sex with Charlie, her husband of twelve years, begins writing her first romance novel. Hoping for creative fodder, Laura orchestrates an affair between Charlie and her idol, married local radio celebrity Jenna Faroli. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 70464

Ernest Hemingway: a Writer's Life

by Catherine Reef

Biography of Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961), whose streamlined prose won both a Pulitzer and Nobel Prize. Discusses his adventures as a hunter, war correspondent, and soldier. Covers his love for drinking and bullfighting, his wives and children, and his writing prowess. For grades 6-9 and older readers.

DB 70622

The Last Honest Woman: a Novel

by Nora Roberts

Journalist Dylan Crosby intends to write a biography of an infamous race-car driver. Abigail O'Hurley Rockwell, the driver's widow, needs the money the book would bring but also wants to protect her sons from negative publicity. Complicating things, Abigail and Dylan fall in love. Some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 70829

Writing Jane Austen: a Novel

by Elizabeth Aston

American writer Georgina Jackson, now in England, is stuck on the first chapter of her new book when her editor commissions her to finish a Jane Austen manuscript. But Georgina has never read Austen so she seeks help from her landlord, his sister, and his housekeeper. Some strong language.

DB 70879

Ayn Rand and the World She Made

by Anne C. Heller

Biography of Atlas Shrugged (DB 51074) novelist Ayn Rand, who was born Alissa Rosenbaum in 1905 Russia. Chronicles her childhood and 1926 immigration to America. Recounts Rand's development of objectivism--an anticollectivist philosophy promoting free-market capitalism and the pursuit of self-interest--and describes her cult following.

In His Sights: a True Story of Love and Obsession

by Kate Brennan

Writing from a secret location, the author describes being stalked by her wealthy former lover Paul, who has pursued her for more than thirteen years. Details repeated moves and identity changes to escape Paul's harassment, which includes threatening calls, notes, and break-ins. Some strong language.

DB 70922

Bad Move: a Novel by Linwood Barclay

Science fiction novelist and chronic worrier Zack Walker convinces his family to move from the inner city to a new, suburban development that he believes is safer. But he soon stumbles upon two dead bodies, a find that puts his family in mortal danger. Violence and strong language.

DB 71231

Born to Write: the Remarkable Lives of Six Famous Authors by Charis Cotter

Explores ways writers' childhoods shaped their books: Lucy Maud Montgomery--Anne of Green Gables (RC 56114); C.S. Lewis--The Complete Chronicles of Narnia (RC 50083); E.B. White--Charlotte's Web (RC 46839); Madeleine L'Engle--A Wrinkle in Time (RC 48972); Philip Pullman--Golden Compass (RC 44343); Christopher Paul Curtis--Bud, Not Buddy (RC 49311). For grades 5-8.

DB 71365

Bad Things Happen: a Novel

by Harry Dolan

Michigan. Enigmatic David Loogan, an editor at the short story magazine Gray Streets, strikes up a friendship with publisher Tom Kristoll and begins an affair with Tom's wife. One night David helps Tom dispose of a body--then Tom turns up dead. Some violence and some descriptions of sex.

DB 71587

Anne Frank: the Book, the Life, the Afterlife

by Francine Prose

Analyzes The Diary of a Young Girl (DB 57022) as a literary work, a Holocaust narrative, and a cultural artifact. Examines the evidence that Anne rewrote her memoir to increase its appeal. Discusses the published book's use in classroom instruction and its adaptation for stage and film.

Edith Wharton: a Novel

by Lee Hermione

Biography of Edith Wharton (1862-1937), American author of The Age of Innocence (DB 65343) and The House of Mirth (DB 35369). Discusses her privileged life in New York and France, unhappy and childless marriage, midlife affair, literary friendships with Henry James and others, and successful writing career.

DB 71626

Borges: a Life

by Edwin Williamson

Biography of Argentine author Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986). Chronicles his formative years in Buenos Aires and Geneva; literary career publishing fiction, poetry, and essays; opposition to Perón's government; directorship of the National Library of Argentina; exile; and blindness.

DB 71669

My Paper Chase: True Stories of Vanished Times

by Harold Evans

Autobiography of Sir Harold Evans, the British editor of London's Sunday Times and later president of Random House. Recalls twentieth-century print journalism with anecdotes about the crusades he championed--including cancer detection and compensation for persons injured by thalidomide--while fighting against government strictures on the press.

DB 72016

Trust Me on This: a Novel

by Jennifer Crusie

Undercover government agent Alec Prentice attends a literature conference with plans to trap a con man. Reporter Dennie Banks is there for the biggest scoop of her career. They each suspect the other is a swindler. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 72026

Phyllida and the Brotherhood of Philander: a Novel

by Ann Herendeen

London, 1812. Future earl Andrew Carrington needs a wife who understands that he prefers the company of men. Phyllida Lewis agrees to the marriage, as long as she can continue to write romance novels. Complications arise when Andrew falls in love--with Phyllida. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

E.E. Cummings: a Biography

by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

This study of the life and work of New England poet Edward Estlin Cummings (1894-1962) examines his artistic vision, pacifism, relationships with women, egocentricity, talent for drawing and painting, experiments with language--see Complete Poems, 1913-1962 (DB 21554)--and friendships with intellectuals such as Ezra Pound.

DB 72350

Louisa May Alcott: the Woman Behind Little Women

by Harriet Reisen

Comprehensive and extensively researched biography of novelist Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888) discusses her personal attributes and successful career. Covers her impoverished and peripatetic childhood, keenly independent spirit, European travels, Civil War service as a nurse, and writing compulsion. Relates the formative influence of her father's intellectual friends.

DB 72439

Native American Writers

by Steven Otfinoski

Biographical profiles of ten Native American writers: Carter Curtis Revard, N. Scott Momaday, Gerald Vizenor, James Welch, Michael Dorris, Leslie Marmon Silko, Joy Harjo, Louise Erdrich, Rigoberta Menchú, and Sherman Alexie. Includes a summary and analysis of each featured author's major works.

DB 72440

Arab-American and Muslim Writers

by Rebecca Layton

Biographical sketches of nine writers--Kahlil Gibran, Malcolm X, Samuel Hazo, Amiri Baraka, Naomi Shihab Nye, Mona Simpson, Khaled Hosseini, Claire Messud, and Mohja Kahf--feature literary analysis of their major works. For senior high and older readers.

DB 72454

The World has Changed: Conversations with Alice Walker edited by Rudolph P. Byrd

Nineteen interviews with Pulitzer Prize winner Alice Walker, arranged chronologically from 1973 to 2009, reveal the author's artistic development and demonstrate her candid opinions on politics, literature, and her personal life. Includes discussions with Isabel Allende, Howard Zinn, and Amy Goodman, among other cultural figures.

Writing Down the Bones

by Natalie Goldberg

Author, lecturer, and Zen practitioner encourages people to use writing to comprehend the value of their lives. Offers suggestions for creating a mindset and selecting locations that are conducive to writing. Discusses necessary materials and covers points of grammar.

DB 72569

Death at Wentwater Court: a Daisy Dalrymple Mystery

by Carola Dunn

England, 1923. Wealthy flapper Daisy Dalrymple takes a magazine job writing about historic country houses. On her first assignment, Lord Stephen Astwick is found dead in the estate's skating pond, and Daisy joins dashing Scotland Yard inspector Alec Fletcher in the investigation.

DB 72606

No Doors, No Windows: a Novel

by Joe Schreiber

Brothers Owen and Scott find an unfinished manuscript hidden in the shed that was written by their father before he lost his sanity and died. It concerns a haunted house-like one in their hometown--that slowly destroys minds. Now Scott plans to finish the ghost story himself. Strong language.

DB 72616

Too Much Money: a Novel

by Dominick Dunne

Elderly gossip writer Augustus "Gus" Bailey is being sued for millions over a fake story about a politician's missing intern. Meanwhile, a billionaire widow is trying to stop the publication of Bailey's tell-all novel concerning the death of her husband. Strong language

DB 72850

Yours Ever: People and Their Letters

by Thomas Mallon

In his literary salute to the art of letter-writing, the author of A Book of One's Own: People and Their Diaries (RC 23257) discusses the correspondence of historic figures such as Heloise and Abelard, Woodrow Wilson, Winston Churchill, Virginia Woolf, Sacco and Vanzetti, Norman Mailer, and Flannery O'Connor.

The Mystery of Lewis Carroll: Discovering the Whimsical, Thoughtful and Sometimes Lonely Man who Created Alice in Wonderland by Jenny Woolf

Biography of the famous poet, mathematician, writer, Church of England deacon, and photographer, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898), a.k.a. Lewis Carroll, author of Alice in Wonderland (DB 50842). Examines his financial difficulties and his relationship with the real Alice and her family in the context of Victorian England.

DB 72894

Naked Heat: a Nikki Heat Novel

by Richard Castle

NYPD detective Nikki Heat has avoided journalist Jameson Rook ever since the magazine article he wrote about her was published. But when Jameson discovers the body of a gossip columnist he has been shadowing, Nikki and Jameson team up to investigate. Strong language, descriptions of sex, and some violence.

DB 73033

The House on Olive Street: A Novel

by Robyn Carr

Four fellow writers arrive at their novelist friend Gabby Marshall's house for her fiftieth birthday only to find her dead. As their own lives start to unravel in different ways, Gabby's companions gather at her house for the summer. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 73096

How to Woo a Reluctant Lady: A Novel

by Sabrina Jeffries

When novelist Lady Minerva Sharpe convinces notorious rakehell Giles Masters to pose as her betrothed, they find their fake engagement turning into something more, until she discovers his secret double life. Explicit descriptions of sex and some violence.

DB 73124

More Than Words: Daughters of Amana: a Novel by Judith Miller

Gretchen Kohler, an Amana storekeeper's daughter, keeps her passion for writing a secret, but she shares her stories with a young reporter, putting her job, her reputation, and the love of her childhood beau in jeopardy. Sequel to Somewhere to Belong (DB 72196).

J. D. Salinger: a Life by Kenneth Slawenski

Biography of Jerome David Salinger (1919-2010) examines connections between his life and his writing. Discusses Salinger's privileged youth, service in World War II, love for Oona O'Neill and other women, work for the New Yorker, and seclusion after publication of The Catcher in the Rye (DB 47480).

DB 73186

The Betrayed: a Novel

by David Hosp

After Washington Post reporter Elizabeth Creay is murdered, D.C. detectives Darius Train and Jack Cassian look for a motive in the story she was writing and among her wealthy family and violent ex-husband. Also investigating is Elizabeth's law-student sister, Sydney Chapin. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

DB 73233

Pearl Buck in China: Journey to the Good Earth by Hilary Spurling

Biography of Pearl Sydenstricker Buck (1892-1973) covering her years in China and their influence on her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Good Earth (DB 37294). Discusses ways Buck's immersion in Chinese village life and language helped her bridge eastern and western worlds and win the 1938 Nobel Prize for literature.

DB 73375

Folly Beach: a Novel

by Dorothea Benton Frank

Cate Cooper returns to her hometown of Folly Beach, South Carolina, after her husband loses everything and commits suicide. Cate helps manage her aunt's property while writing a play that features George Gershwin and the 1920s Charleston Renaissance. She also falls in love with a history professor. Bestseller.

DB 73563

When You Dare: a Novel

by Lori Foster

When mercenary Dare Macintosh locates a friend's kidnapped sister in Mexico he also rescues romance-suspense novelist Molly Alexander. Believing that someone paid her abductors, Molly hires Dare to find the culprit. Meanwhile, Dare and Molly's mutual attraction builds. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence.

Townie: a Memoir by Andre Dubus III

Novelist recalls his relationship with his famous father, a writer and professor who deserted the family to pursue a student. Recounts growing up in poverty in a small Massachusetts town and fighting his way to adulthood. Describes the reconciliation that followed Dubus senior's crippling accident. Violence and strong language.

DB 73709

A Duke's Temptation: the Bridal Pleasures Series: a Novel by Jillian Hunter

London, 1818. After breaking off her engagement, young Lily Boscastle flees society and becomes a housekeeper. Lily's employer turns out to be Samuel St. Aldwyn, the duke of Gravenhurst, who is the anonymous author of the romantic suspense novels that Lily loves. Some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 73829

Transparent Things: a Novel

by Vladimir Nabokov

When New York publisher Hugh Person goes to interview author Armande Chamar in Switzerland, he falls in love with her and brings Armande back as his wife. Eight years later--after a murder, madness, and imprisonment--Hugh returns to Europe.

DB 74031

Changó's Beads and Two-Tone Shoes: a Novel

by William Kennedy

Journalist and aspiring writer Daniel Quinn meets author Ernest Hemingway in a Havana bar in 1957 and marries gunrunner Renata in a Santeria ceremony. Returning home to Albany, New York, in 1968, Daniel investigates race riots and corrupt politicians. Some violence and some strong language.

DB 74102

Breakdown: a V.I. Warshawski Mystery

by Sara Paretsky

Chicago. PI Victoria Warshawski searches a cemetery for preteen girls in her cousin Petra's book club, who are reenacting a ritual inspired by popular vampire novels. But Warshawski also finds the corpse of another private investigator. Violence and strong language.

Down the Darkest Road: A Novel

by Tami Hoag

Four years ago Lauren's sixteen-year-old daughter Leslie disappeared without a trace. Now Lauren and her younger daughter move to Oak Knoll, and Lauren begins writing about her experience. But Lauren sees the man she believes abducted Leslie and considers vigilantism. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 74336

Why Orwell Matters

by Christopher Hitchens

Essayist explores the life and work of George Orwell (1903-1950), best known as the author of 1984 and Animal Farm. Discusses Orwell's political beliefs and the ways they were shaped by the times in which he lived. Challenges Orwell's critics and argues that his ideas remain relevant.

DB 74378

Away with the Fairies: a Phryne Fisher Mystery by Kerry Greenwood

Australia, 1928. Phryne Fisher goes undercover at a woman's magazine to find out who murdered Marcella Lavender, a writer and illustrator of fairy stories. Phryne also worries about her lover Lin Chung, who is on a silk-buying trip. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 74415

Crosscut: an Evan Delaney Novel

by Meg Gardiner

Writer Evan Delaney and her boyfriend attend Evan's fifteen-year high-school reunion and are shocked to learn that many members of her class have died. Their suspicions are aroused, then later confirmed when someone begins murdering the remaining classmates one by one. Violence and strong language.

DB 74443

Heartwishes: an Edilean Novel

by Jude Deveraux

Edilean, Virginia. Graduate student Gemma Ranford lands a dream job--organizing centuries-old documents and writing the Frazier family history. Gemma's research reveals the existence of the Heartwishes Stone. Meanwhile, town sheriff Colin Frazier hunts for the jewel thief who has been robbing locals--and falls in love. Explicit descriptions of sex.

Arthur Miller: 1915-1962 by Christopher Bigsby

Focuses on the early life of American playwright Arthur Miller (d. 2005), exploring the forces that shaped him and ideas he grappled with in his writing. Examines Miller's marriage to Marilyn Monroe and analyzes his principal works, including Death of a Salesman, The Crucible, and the film The Misfits.

DB 74688

If You Were Here: a Novel

by Jen Lancaster

Describes the humorous struggles of an author of Amish-zombie-teen romance novels and her husband as they navigate the process of buying their first home in the Chicago suburbs.

DB 74704

Breakfast of Champions, or, Goodbye Blue Monday!

by Kurt Vonnegut

The author questions the condition of modern man in this novel depicting a science fiction writer's struggle to find peace and sanity in the world.

DB 74705

Wolf: the Lives of Jack London

by James L. Haley

Biography of adventurer Jack London (1876-1916), author of The Call of the Wild (DB 49486). Chronicles London's impoverished childhood as the illegitimate son of a spiritualist medium in San Francisco, his menial jobs and itinerant life, turn to socialism, and literary success. Spur Award.

DB 74817

Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake

by Anna Quindlen

In a series of essays, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and bestselling novelist reminisces about her life and the process of aging. Contemplates the feminist revolution, mortality, family, and the importance of girlfriends in a woman's life. Bestseller.

DB 74861

Crawlspace: a Home Repair is Homicide Mystery

by Sarah Graves

Eastport, Maine. True-crime writer Carolyn Rathbone is abducted shortly after arriving in town to research the mysterious Dodd murders for her new book. Carolyn's assistant turns to amateur sleuth Jacobia "Jake" Tiptree for help finding Carolyn, but Jake's son is also missing. Strong language and some violence.

Heartbroken: a Novel

by Lisa Unger

Stay-at-home-mom-turned-novelist Kate dreads the approaching family reunion on Heart Island, which is owned by Kate's controlling mother Birdie. Meanwhile, waitress Emily's destructive boyfriend sends her fleeing to the same place. As the women converge on the island, Birdie uncovers a decades-old secret. Violence and strong language.

DB 75186

Phillis Wheatley: Biography of a Genius in Bondage

by Vincent Carretta

Uses primary documents to chronicle the life of the African American poet (1753-1784). Discusses Wheatley's relationships with her Bostonian owners John and Susanna Wheatley, the fame she achieved in England, and her marriage to free black man John Peters. Includes previously unpublished work.

DB 75362

Hemingway's Girl: a Novel

by Erika Robuck

Key West, Florida; 1935. To cover her family's expenses, nineteen-year-old Mariella disguises herself as a boy and bets on a boxing match refereed by Ernest Hemingway. She is hired as a maid by the author and falls in love with boxer Gavin Murray, a WWI veteran. Strong language.

DB 75398

When I Was a Child I Read Books

by Marilynne Robinson

Pulitzer Prize winner and author of Gilead (DB 59561) presents ten essays, six previously published and four new, on varying topics. In the title piece Robinson reminisces about growing up in Idaho and compares her experiences to the perceptions of being raised in the West.

DB 75434

Love Anthony: a Novel

by Lisa Genova

Nantucket. After separating from her husband, Beth begins writing a book about an autistic boy. Meanwhile, divorcée Olivia, who mourns the death of her young autistic son Anthony, moves to the island. Neither woman realizes that Beth is channeling Anthony's story. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

Low Pressure: a Novel

by Sandra Brown

Despite her own memory lapses regarding the event, Bellamy writes a bestselling novel based on the eighteen-year-old cold case of her sister Susan's murder. When Bellamy receives anonymous threats, she teams up with Susan's lover to find the killer. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 75440

Getting Old is Très Dangereux: a Mystery

by Rita Lakin

As Gladdy and Jack become officially engaged and prepare for their wedding, Jack's famous former girlfriend--French author Michelle DuBois--arrives in town for a book conference. Jack's ex-cop instincts kick in when he learns that Michelle's exposé books have provoked threats. Some strong language.

DB 75538

Floating Staircase: a Novel

by Ronald Malfi

When novelist Travis and his wife Jodie relocate to a remote town called Waterview to be close to Travis's brother Adam, strange things occur: a little boy appears in the shadows and stairs rise out of a lake. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex.

DB 75545

The Story of Charlotte's Web: E.B. White's Eccentric Life in Nature and the Birth of an American Classic

by Michael Sims

Biography of E.B. White (1899-1985), who wrote that he "felt a kinship for animals that he never felt for people" and penned the 1952 children's novel featuring a spider. Discusses White's New Yorker magazine days, marriage to editor Katharine Angell, and Maine farm that inspired Charlotte's Web (DB 46839).

DB 75581

The Age of Desire: a Novel

by Jennie Fields

In this fictionalized biography, Edith Wharton's novels about America's privileged classes have made her the toast of literary society in 1907 Paris. She meets young journalist Morton Fullerton and their ensuing affair soon threatens Edith's relationships with her husband Teddy and her former-governess-turned-literary-secretary Anna. Some explicit descriptions of sex.

James Joyce: a New Biography

by Gordon Bowker

Chronicle of the life of James Joyce (1882-1941), author of Ulysses (DB 19994) and Finnegan's Wake (DB 21424). Details his family history, relationships with fellow literary artists such as Samuel Beckett and William Butler Yeats, and his struggles as a writer. Strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 75840

Sweet Tooth: a Novel

by Ian McEwan

England, 1970s. Cambridge student Serena Frome's affair with a professor leads to a job with MI5. Serena is assigned to Operation Sweet Tooth, which secretly funds writers with MI5-sanctioned views. Problems arise when she falls for one of the authors. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

DB 75841

Reflections: On the Magic of Writing

by Diana Wynne Jones

Collection of essays, speeches, and biographical pieces chosen by bestselling juvenile fantasy writer Diana Wynne Jones (1934-2011). In "Freedom to Write" the author explores the fashion of fantasy. Foreword by Neil Gaiman. For junior and senior high and older readers.

DB 75851

The First Prophet: a Novel

by Kay Hooper

Sarah Gallagher, who developed psychic powers after awaking from a coma, knows she is being watched. When novelist Tucker Mackenzie shows up to interview her, he has his own agenda--but soon the two are running for their lives. Violence and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 75983

Lois Lane Tells All: a Novel

by Karen Hawkins

Susan Collins has realized her childhood dream of becoming a reporter--like Lois Laneat her hometown newspaper in Glory, North Carolina. But when Mark Treymayne arrives to make the business profitable, the two butt heads. Sequel to Talk of the Town (DB 68598). Some explicit descriptions of sex.

Georgette Heyer

by Jennifer Kloester

Biography of Georgette Heyer (1902-1974), the author primarily known for Regency-era romances--including Devil's Cub (DB 59285) and Faro's Daughter (DB 67512)--as well as historical novels and mysteries. Details her relationship with her parents, traveling adventures, and writing career. Includes lists of her novels and short stories.

DB 76176

Potboiler: a Novel by Jesse Kellerman

Arthur Pfefferkorn had known blockbuster thriller writer Bill de Vallele since high school. He always resented that Bill won the woman Arthur loved and had the career Arthur wanted. But after Bill's death Arthur becomes famous by plagiarizing Bill's unfinished book--and learns how Bill really lived. Strong language.

DB 76224

Until the End of Time: a Novel

by Danielle Steel

A couple destined to be together forever meet an untimely demise and wind up reincarnated as a hardened New York City publisher and a shy Amish woman writer, both of whom feel an uncanny attraction to each other. Some strong language. Bestseller.

DB 76287

Portrait of a Novel: Henry James and the Making of an American Masterpiece by Michael Gorra

English professor examines the life of Henry James, focusing on the period during which the author wrote The Portrait of a Lady (DB 51264). Examines James's previous literary successes, his travels through Europe, and the Victorian culture in which he lived.

DB 76358

Why We Write: 20 Acclaimed Authors on How and Why They Do What They Do edited by Meredith Maran

Twenty essays by popular authors on the reasons behind their pursuit of writing. Sue Grafton, author of A is for Alibi (DB 35069), ruminates on the source of "writer's block" and David Baldacci discusses his compulsion for writing. Also includes Isabel Allende, Jodi Picoult, and others.

A Cold and Lonely Place: a Novel

by Sara J. Henry

Freelance writer Troy Chance is covering the annual Saranac Lake ice palace construction when the ice cutters discover a body in the frozen lake. Recognizing the deceased as her renter's boyfriend, Troy becomes personally and professionally involved as she investigates his mysterious life and death.

DB 76419

The List: a Novel by Karin Tanabe

Adrienne Brown leaves her cushy job at Town & Country magazine for a position with the up-and-coming Capitolist website and newspaper in Washington, D.C. As the publication's frenetic pace threatens to break her, Adrienne discovers a hated colleague's affair with a senator. Strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 76443

Literary Rogues: a Scandalous History of Wayward Authors by Andrew Shaffer

Profiles of twenty-five writers featuring their more salacious exploits. Includes Ernest Hemingway's and Dorothy Parker's alcohol abuse, William S. Burroughs's and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's drug addictions, and Sylvia Plath's and Anne Sexton's mental illnesses. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex.

DB 76463

The Lady and Her Monsters: a Tale of Dissections, Real-life Dr. Frankensteins, and the Creation of Mary Shelley's Masterpiece

by Roseanne Montillo

Literature professor investigates the world of Mary Shelley as she wrote Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus (DB 25835). Profiles literary influences, including Lord Byron and Shelley's husband Percy Bysshe Shelley. Discusses eighteenth- and nineteenth-century medical practices such as stealing corpses for dissection and anatomical study.

DB 76835

Raymond Carver: a Writer's Life

by Carol Sklenicka

Biography of short-story author Raymond Carver (1938-1988). Examines his relationships with others, including his initial editor; fellow authors; first wife, Maryann Burk; and second wife, poet Tess Gallagher. Discusses his struggles with alcohol and financial solvency and explores his gift for writing about ordinary people.

Secrets from the Past: a Novel by Barbara Taylor Bradford

Serena Stone is writing a biography of her late father, a famous war photojournalist. After she finds old photos of a woman who resembles her--and who appears to be her father's pregnant lover--Serena searches for the truth of her parentage. Some descriptions of sex.

DB 77040

The Winter Sea: a Novel by Susanna Kearsley

Carrie McClelland, a bestselling novelist, moves to Scotland to write about her ancestor Sophia, who helped King James Stewart try to reclaim the crown in 1708. There, the past seems to commingle with the present, and she is attracted to a local man. Some descriptions of sex.

DB 77222

Sweet Salt Air: a Novel by Barbara Delinsky

Travel writer Charlotte and food blogger Nicole reunite after ten years on Quinnipeague Island, Maine, to collaborate on a cookbook. Both hide secrets concerning Nicole's husband Julian, a renowned surgeon. Meanwhile, Charlotte finds romance from an unexpected source. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 77316

Anne Perry and the Murder of the Century by Peter Graham

Describes the notorious 1954 New Zealand matricide committed by teenage friends Pauline Parker and Juliet Hulme, who later became bestselling mystery writer Anne Perry. Discusses the girls' plans to run away and become writers, their trial and prison terms, and their lives since their release. Some violence.

DB 77324

Amy Falls Down: a Novel

by Jincy Willett

Aging novelist Amy Gallup is content--if not exactly happy--with the hermit-like existence she and her dog Alphonse lead. On New Year's Eve, Amy goes out to plant a tree and falls down. This seemingly simple mishap sets off events that open up possibilities in her life. Some strong language.

Gone with the Woof: a Melanie Travis Mystery

by Laurien Berenson

Melanie Travis agrees to help retiring dog-show judge Edward March pen a memoir. But she is surprised to learn March plans to write about his lovers--not his dogs--and is a secret hoarder. Meanwhile, March's grown son--who is adamantly opposed to the book--is killed in a suspicious hit-and-run accident.

DB 77582

Kissing the Sword: a Prison Memoir

by Shahrnush Parsipur

Iranian novelist writes of her times of imprisonment, first at the hands of the shah and then, from 1981 to 1986, by the Islamic Republic. Describes day-to-day life, the treatment of women prisoners, and the loss of friends who were executed. Translated from Persian. Some violence.

DB 77584

An Impenetrable Screen of Purest Sky: a Novel

by Dan Beachy-Quick

English professor Daniel no longer perceives the difference between his reality, the world of literature, and the story he fights to bring forth. Other people's lives are like tales from a book he read as a child, and book pages seem to transport him back to his childhood.

DB 77772

Behind Our Eyes: a Second Look: the Second Literary Anthology of Stories, Poems and Essays by Writers with Disabilities edited by Kate Chamberlin

Anthology of memoirs, stories, poems, and essays by authors with disabilities. In "Banging the Drum Loudly" Peter Altschul describes how he performed with his school's marching band. In " A Prickly Tree" Robert Feinstein recounts his Jewish mother buying him a Christmas tree.

DB 77901

A Reader's Book of Days: True Tales From the Lives and Works of Writers for Every Day of the Year

by Tom Nissley

Former Jeopardy! champion and English professor catalogs major events in the lives of authors and their books, organized by date.

That Part Was True: a Novel

by Deborah McKinlay

After wealthy British recluse Eve writes to bestselling American author Jackson, the two become affectionate pen pals. As each offers counsel to the other, they both begin to confront their problems. But when they plan a rendezvous in Paris, timid Eve fears it can never happen. Unrated.

DB 78498

You Should Have Known: a Novel

by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Grace Sachs is devoted to her pediatric oncologist husband, their young son, and the patients she sees in her practice. Grace has authored the book You Should Have Known, in which she cautions women against deluding themselves. But then her own delusions are exposed. Unrated.

DB 78625

The Weirdness: a Novel by Jeremy P. Bushnell

When Satan offers to help struggling writer Billy Ridgeway make the bestseller list, Billy is tempted. In exchange, all Lucifer asks is that Billy find Lucifer's missing lucky cat, Neko of Infinite Equilibrium. Strong language and descriptions of sex.

DB 78834

The Silkworm: a Novel by Robert Galbraith

When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. As Strike investigates, it becomes clear that there is more to Quine's disappearance than his wife realizes: the novelist had just completed a manuscript featuring poison-pen portraits of almost everyone he knows. Unrated.

DB 78924

Roughneck

by Jim Thompson

Autobiographical vignettes by a master of 1940s and 1950s pulp fiction. The author of The Killer Inside Me in Crime Novels: American Noir of the 1950s (DB 46412) chronicles his many jobs and near-criminal escapades on the path to becoming an iconic crime novelist. Unrated.

H.G. Wells: Another Kind of Life

by Michael Sherborne

Biography of British author (1866-1946) known for War of the Worlds (DB 38464) and The Time Machine (DB 33367). Uses Wells's correspondence to illustrate his socialist views, scientific interests, and belief in free love. Discusses his literary feuds with Henry James and George Orwell.

DB 79213

The Other Story: a Novel by Tatiana de Rosnay

Ten years after discovering a devastating family secret, Nicolas Duhamel is a celebrated author and on vacation at an exclusive hotel in Tuscany. He discovers that secrets cannot stay buried forever and must confront old ghosts.

DB 79226

Seducing Mr. Knightly: a Novel

by Maya Rodale

London, 1825. Advice columnist Annabelle Swift is in love with Derek Knightly--the owner-editor of her paper--but he is oblivious. Desperate, Annabelle turns to her readers for suggestions on winning him over, and begins implementing them with some success. Some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 79283

Storyteller: the Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl

by Donald Sturrock

Biography of writer Roald Dahl (1916-1990), author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (DB 33498). Chronicles Dahl's English boarding-school education; World War II service that involved aerial combat and espionage; and family tragedies, including his first wife Patricia Neal's stroke and the death of his daughter Olivia.

DB 79286

Muriel Spark: the Biography

by Martin Stannard

Examines personal and professional facets of the life of the Scottish writer best known for The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (DB 69464). Covers the rise of Muriel Spark (1918-2006) from genteel poverty to international celebrity, including her mental-health problems, brief marriage, 1954 conversion to Catholicism, and literary friendships.

Updike

by Adam Begley

Journalist examines the life of John Updike (1932-2009), author of Couples (DB 48643) and Pigeon Feathers and Other Stories (DB 44879). Details his early childhood in Pennsylvania, his years in suburban Massachusetts, and his family life. Explores the impact of his prolific criticism and journalism as well as his dozens of novels.

DB 79380

Lost for Words: a Novel by Edward St. Aubyn

The Elysian Prize for Literature is one that authors would die to have. When the judges are impaneled to make this year's decision, writers compete for attention. From accidental submissions to judges' hijinks, the outcome of the award is far from decided. Strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 79387

The Extraordinary Life of Rebecca West by Lorna Gibb

Using West's correspondence, personal papers, media interviews, and conversations with her friends and employees, examines the life of England-born author, journalist, suffragist, and critic Cicely Isabel Fairfield (1892-1983)--otherwise known as Rebecca West. West--whose novels include The Fountain Overflows (DB 54605)--had a son with H.G. Wells.

DB 79458

The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair: a Novel by Joel Dicker

Marcus Goldman is a young novelist and visits Somerset to see his mentor, Harry Quebert, one of the country's most respected writers, and to find a cure for his writer's block as his publisher's deadline looms. But Marcus's plans are violently upended when Harry is suddenly and sensationally implicated in the cold-case murder of Nola Kellergan.

DB 79542

How to Handle a Heartbreaker: a Novel

by Marie Harte

When romance author Abby Dunn keeps casting hunky Brody Singer as the hero in her books, Brody offers up his body and passion for authentic research. But when their fun turns into something real, they both have to decide their story's ending. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

The Mockingbird Next Door: Life with Harper Lee

by Marja Mills

Journalist describes becoming friends with author Harper Lee (born 1926), known to her family and friends as Nelle, and her sister Alice and eventually moving in next door to them. Provides insights into Lee's reclusiveness and reluctance about writing another novel after To Kill a Mockingbird (DB 36414/77672). Bestseller.

DB 79636

The Man from Essence: Creating a Magazine for Black Women by Edward Lewis

Memoir by publisher Lewis (born 1940) discusses his early years growing up in New York City, coming of age during the Civil Rights era, the turbulent early years of Essence after its founding in 1970, and his approach to managing the business until its sale to Time, Inc. in 2005.

DB 79674

Take this Man: a Memoir by Brando Skyhorse

Memoir by the author of The Madonnas of Echo Park (DB 71696). Describes being raised as an American Indian by his single mother in Echo Park, California, in the 1970s and 1980s and discovering at the age of twelve or thirteen that he was really Mexican. Strong language.

DB 79709

Dear Committee Members: a Novel

by Julie Schumacher

Enduring budget cuts at his small liberal arts college, literature professor Jason Fitger despairs of his writing ambitions and imposed role in a star pupil's would-be opus while writing wryly comic, passive-aggressive letters to students and colleagues. Unrated.

DB 79725

The Literary Churchill: Author, Reader, Actor by Jonathan Rose

Scholar explores the life of Winston Churchill (1874-1965) as a statesman and author. Reveals the profound influence of literature and theater on Churchill's personal story and on the decisions he made throughout his political career. Analyzes key writings and their public reception: Churchill won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953.

The Last Magazine: a Novel

by Michael Hastings

News magazine intern Michael describes his time at The Magazine. He runs story proposals past editors and becomes involved with office politics. When reporter A.E. Peoria uncovers a bombshell of a news story, Michael is in on the action. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence.

DB 79810

The Crime of Julian Wells: a Novel

by Thomas H. Cook

When true-crime writer Julian Wells kills himself, his best friend Philip Anders becomes obsessed with finding out why. Philip's first clue is an Argentinian crime, which he believes was the writer's last book idea as well as the beginning of his life's downward spiral. Some violence and some strong language.

DB 79908

The Life We Bury: a Novel

by Allen Eskens

A biography assignment has college student Joe Talbert visiting a nursing home to find a subject. He ends up writing about convicted murderer Carl Iverson--now dying after thirty years in prison. Joe, with neighbor Lila's help, sets out to prove Carl's innocence. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 79920

Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh

by John Lahr

Biography of Tennessee Williams (1911-1983), the author of The Glass Menagerie (DB 45893) and A Streetcar Named Desire (DB 46212). Details Williams's personal life and relationships, career as a playwright, and scandals surrounding him--even after his death. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. National Book Award Finalist.

DB 80010

The Way of All Fish: a Novel

by Martha Grimes

In this sequel to Foul Matter (DB 57107), hit men Candy and Karl return to help writer Cindy Sella, who is struggling with both writer's block and a lawsuit by her unscrupulous former agent, L. Bass Hess. Some strong language.

You: a Novel

by Caroline Kepnes

Clerk Joe Goldberg is immediately drawn to aspiring writer Beck when she enters his bookstore. He describes the increasingly dangerous steps he takes to get to know her, and to make her his own. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 80335

Vanessa and her Sister: a Novel

by Priya Parmar

London, 1905. After the death of their father, the Stephen siblings--Vanessa, Thoby, Virginia, and Adrian--purchase a home in Bloomsbury. There they entertain and develop a close circle of literary and artistic friends. Vanessa and Virginia both fall in love. Unrated.

DB 80403

Twilight of the Eastern Gods

by Ismail Kadare

Fictionalized account of the author's experiences at the Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow. An Albanian student wakes to an uproar over a Russian author winning the Nobel Prize, and examines the culture around him.

DB 80467

Saving Grace: a Novel

by Jane Green

A literary power couple hides behind a carefree public face the painful realities of the husband's raging mood swings and the wife's past secrets until a too-good-to-be-true new assistant enters their lives, with dangerous consequences. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 80637

Bon Appetempt: a Coming-of-Age Story (with Recipes!)

by Amelia Morris

Food blogger's memoir of significant events in her life and the part played by cooking. Discusses beginning her blog after a chocolate cake disaster on Christmas, and tells of having an essay that was originally rejected by another publication named a best culinary essay on Saveur's food blog awards. Unrated.

Essays After Eighty

by Donald Hall

Former United States Poet Laureate and author of Unpacking the Boxes (DB 68474), Hall (born 1928) ruminates on the life he has lived, as well as lives of his ancestors. Discusses writing, smoking and drinking, and traveling through post-WWII Europe.

DB 80837

The Last Dickens: a Novel

by Matthew Pearl

Boston, 1870. When his assistant is murdered and the final pages of Charles Dickens's last novel disappear, publisher James Osgood sets out to unmask the killer and recover the lost manuscript. His quest takes him to England, where he is embroiled in lifethreatening danger. Unrated.

DB 81131

The Selected Letters of Langston Hughes

edited by Arnold Rampersad

Collection of letters written by poet and novelist Hughes (1902-1967) between 1921 and his death. Includes letters to his family, luminaries of art and literature including Carl Van Vechten, his long-time editor Blanche Knopf, Richard Wright, Gwendolyn Brooks, and more. Commentary from editors expands on references. Some strong language.

DB 81150

José Martí: a Revolutionary Life

by Alfred J. López

Biography of José Martí (1853-1895), a poet, journalist, author, and freedom fighter, who played a seminal role in the independence of Cuba. His influential poetry, prose, and plays, together with the events of his singular, albeit brief, life earned him the appellation the "Apostle"--revered by Cubans of every political persuasion.

DB 81218

Mightier than the Sword: the Clifton Chronicles by Jeffrey Archer

In the aftermath of an IRA bombing, Harry Clifton uses his new literary station to raise awareness for his POW friend while Giles Barrington works to secure a political career and Sebastian's past threatens his engagement. Bestseller.

Outline

by Rachel Cusk

A novel in ten conversations between a novelist and the various people she encounters while teaching a creative writing course during one oppressively hot summer in Athens, Greece. She mostly listens, but her responses slowly reveal truths about her.

DB 81403

The Door: a Novel by Magda Szabó

Magda, a writer, describes her post-war rise to prominence. When she and her academic husband hire peasant Emerence to be their housekeeper, Magda becomes transfixed by Emerence's life. Revelation of a secret shocks Magda from her complacency. Some violence.

DB 81541

Follies of God: Tennessee Williams and the Women of the Fog by James Grissom

As a young writer, author Grissom sent a letter to playwright Tennessee Williams, who invited him to New Orleans for a few days. He recorded the playwright's reminiscences and promised to seek out the many actresses who shaped Williams' work to ask them about his legacy. Some strong language.

DB 81720

Don't Go Home: a Death on Demand Mystery

by Carolyn G. Hart

Mystery bookstore owner Annie Darling plans a party to celebrate successful southern literary icon--and former Broward's Rock resident--Alex Griffith and his new novel. But after Annie's friend Marian Kenyon gets in a heated argument with Griffith, he turns up dead, and Marian is the suspect. Unrated.

DB 82010

The Rumor: a Novel by Elin Hilderbrand

Summer in Nantucket is the favored time of year for best friends Grace and Madeline. This year, however, novelist Madeline is dealing with writer's block, Grace is transforming her backyard garden with a very attractive landscape architect, and the romance between their children is falling apart. Unrated.

Killing Monica: a Novel by Candace Bushnell

Monica is the heroine of a string of popular books by author Pandy Wallis. Eager to write something new, Pandy would love to kill off her popular (and more glamorous) alter-ego, but she needs the money Monica earns in order to divorce her cheating husband. Unrated.

The Art of Reading

To read a book for the first time is to make an acquaintance with a new friend; to read it for a second time is to meet an old one.

~Anonymous

DB 62678: a Spencer Mystery The Godwulf Manuscript by Robert B. Parker

A university president hires Boston PI Spenser to recover a fourteenth-century manuscript presumably stolen by a left-wing campus group. Spenser questions the group's secretary, Terry, but when her boyfriend is murdered, Terry's father hires Spenser to prove she's innocent. Some descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language.

DB 65012

The Bookwoman's Last Fling: a Cliff Janeway Novel by John Dunning

Homicide-detective-turned-bookseller Cliff Janeway travels to the Idaho estate of late horseman Harold Geiger to appraise his library, once the passion of Harold's collector wife, Candice, who died mysteriously long ago. When Cliff discovers valuable volumes missing, he investigates the family's shadowy past--one that may involve murder. Some strong language.

DB 66059

People of the Book: a Novel

by Geraldine Brooks

Australian book conservator Hanna Heath analyzes a Hebrew manuscript created in medieval Spain and saved from destruction in 1990s Sarajevo. Hanna's discoveries--an insect wing, salt crystals, and wine and blood stains--reveal the codex's past and the lives of its guardians. Some descriptions of sex and some violence. Bestseller.

Classics for Pleasure

by Michael Dirda

Pulitzer Prize-winning book critic introduces roughly ninety literary authors and recommends some of his favorite works of fantasy, science fiction, horror, adventure, biography, history, and poetry. Contains essays on writers Ovid, Petronius, Agatha Christie, and Philip K. Dick and on Arthurian romances and H. Rider Haggard's She.

DB 66929

Due Considerations: Essays and Criticism

by John Updike

Reviews, speeches, book introductions, columns, and autobiographical pieces by American novelist, literary critic, and longtime contributor to the New Yorker John Updike. Provides insights and commentary on contemporary American and English authors, religion, the sexual revolution, and other topics.

DB 67209

The Lost Constitution: a Novel

by William Martin

Learning of the existence of an early, annotated draft of the constitution, rare book expert Peter Fallon and his girlfriend, Evangeline, realize that the annotations identify the Founding Fathers' true intentions for the Bill of Rights with history-changing potential. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 67371

Books: a Memoir by Larry McMurtry

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Lonesome Dove (DB 22959) writes about his passion for books--as a reader, author, and bookstore owner. Recounts anecdotes involving amazing people he has met, makes observations about authors he has known, and comments on literary works.

DB 67925

Reading the OED: One Man, One Year, 21,730 Pages

by Ammon Shea

A self-proclaimed collector of words describes his yearlong reading of the Oxford English Dictionary. He comments on words that he believes others would like to know about, such as "sympatetic," which is a companion one walks with, and "onomatomania," which means vexation at having difficulty finding the right word.

Proust and the Squid: the Story and Science of the Reading Brain by Maryanne Wolf

Discusses the evolution of our human brain's capacity to learn to read. Begins with the origins of writing, proceeds to the development of the reading brain and its pathways to acquisition, and ends with questions about potential transformations due to digital technology. Examines reading difficulties of children with dyslexia.

DB 68074

No One You Know: a Novel by Michelle Richmond

Twenty years ago, Ellie Enderlin's professor Andrew Thorpe exploited the murder of Ellie's math-prodigy sister Lila by writing a true-crime book that claimed the killer was Lila's married lover, Peter McConnell. A chance encounter with Peter now prompts Ellie to delve into the crime, Lila's secrets, and Andrew's motives.

DB 68298

Disquiet, Please!: More Humor Writing from the New Yorker edited by David Remnick and Henry Finder

Anthology of humorists' viewpoints from longtime favorites James Thurber, S.J. Perelman, and Woody Allen to Steve Martin, David Sedaris, and Jon Stewart. In "Eight Simple Rules for Dating My Ex-Wife," David Owen confronts his divorce.

DB 68735

Sun, Stone and Shadows: 20 great Mexican Short Stories edited by Jorge F. Hernández

Mexican authors born in the first half of the twentieth century write tales that reveal a panorama of Mexican culture and society--past and present, urban and rural, real and unreal. In "What Became of Pampa Hash?" an impoverished Mexican has a torrid love affair.

DB 69530

Schemers: a Nameless Detective Novel by Bill Pronzini

The Nameless Detective investigates the case of Gregory Pollexfen, whose valuable mystery books were stolen from his locked San Francisco home library. Meanwhile Nameless's associate Tamara is in love, and his cohort Jake seeks a stalker with no apparent connection to his victims. Some violence and some strong language.

A Night Out with Robert Burns: the Greatest Poems arranged by Andrew O'Hagan

Representative poetry by Scotland's famous poet Robert Burns (1759-1796), selected and introduced by Scottish author Andrew O'Hagan. Organized in four overlapping categories with biographical and textual notes, the selections include the New Year's favorite "Auld Lang Syne."

DB 70453

Murder is Binding: a Booktown Mystery

by Lorna Barrett

Stoneham, New Hampshire. Newcomer Tricia Miles, owner of a mystery bookstore located along a corridor of Main Street devoted to specialty bookshops, discovers the body of murdered cookbook dealer and rival merchant Doris Gleason. When Tricia herself becomes a suspect, she sets out to clear her name.

DB 70510

Bookplate Special: a Booktown Mystery

by Lorna Barrett

Tired of her freeloading former college roommate Pammy, bookstore owner Tricia kicks Pammy out of her apartment. Soon Tricia learns that her sister Angelica has hired Pammy to work in Angelica's new cafe. When Tricia finds Pammy's corpse in a trash can behind the restaurant, she investigates. Includes recipes.

DB 70632

Reckless: a Novel by Amanda Quick

Lady Phoebe Layton approaches fellow bibliophile Gabriel Banner, the earl of Wylde, for help tracking down a rare book that was stolen from her late suitor. But Gabriel has ulterior motives for helping Phoebe. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language.

DB 71478

How to Read Literature Like a Professor: a Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines

by Thomas C. Foster

English professor uses an informal approach to help readers spot multiple layers of meaning in literary works. Discusses themes, motifs, literary models, and narrative devices and illustrates all with examples from many genres. Bestseller.

Driftwood Summer: a Novel by Patti Callahan Henry

Palmetto Beach, Georgia. Single mom Riley Sheffield sends for her estranged sisters Maisy and Adalee when the family bookstore falls into financial trouble and their mother Kitsy takes ill. The siblings confront the rivalry and other issues that divided them. Some descriptions of sex.

DB 71669

My Paper Chase: True Stories of Vanished Times by Harold Evans

Autobiography of Sir Harold Evans, the British editor of London's Sunday Times and later president of Random House. Recalls twentieth-century print journalism with anecdotes about the crusades he championed--including cancer detection and compensation for persons injured by thalidomide--while fighting against government strictures on the press.

DB 71927

The Poets Laureate Anthology edited by Elizabeth Hun Schmidt

Poems by each of the forty-three poets who have been named United States poet laureate since the post, originally called Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, was established in 1937. Includes individual profiles.

DB 72106

Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks: Fifty years of Mysteries in the Making by John Curran

Literary advisor to the bestselling queen of crime's estate describes, excerpts, and discusses the seventy-plus notebooks discovered at Christie's family home after her daughter's 2004 death. Includes notes about Christie's books, alternative plot ideas, and two previously unpublished stories featuring her long-running protagonist Hercule Poirot.

DB 72209

Chapter & Hearse: a Booktown Mystery by Lorna Barrett

Stoneham, New Hampshire. Bookstore owner Tricia Miles is suspicious when a gas explosion injures her sister Angelica's boyfriend--and kills a fellow bookseller. While Angelica reluctantly goes on tour to promote her new cookbook, Tricia investigates.

The Man who Loved Books Too Much: the True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession

by Allison Hoover Bartlett

Journalist investigates famed rare-book thief John Gilkey to uncover his motivation for stealing exquisite literature. Retraces the cat-and-mouse game Gilkey played with Ken Sanders, security chair of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America, in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

DB 72673

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba

Memoir of Malawi youth William, a school dropout who was inspired by a library book to build the first windmill in his village. Describes growing up on a farm without electricity, surviving famine, recycling scraps into a windmill to generate power, and inspiring others. Alex Award.

DB 72837

The Book of William: How Shakespeare's First Folio Conquered the World by Paul Collins

English professor and NPR contributor recounts his journeys around the world to trace the fate of Shakespeare's rare extant folios--early compilations published by his business partners, actors John Heminge and Henry Condell--after the bard's death in 1616. Discusses the collection's printing history, auction appearances, and various owners.

DB 73096

How to Woo a Reluctant Lady: a Novel by Sabrina Jeffries

London, 1825. Gothic novelist Lady Minerva Sharpe must marry or her lose her inheritance. Minerva advertises for a husband and is surprised when her childhood crush, barrister Giles Masters, responds. But Minerva doesn't know that Giles is a government spy. Commercial audiobook. Explicit descriptions of sex and some violence.

DB 73432

Cloudy with a Chance of Marriage: a Novel by Kieran Kramer

Jilly Jones flees an unhappy marriage and opens a bookstore on London's Dreare Street. Unfortunately her new neighbor, naval captain Stephen Arrow, throws loud parties and is determined to flirt with Jilly. But soon they--along with Dreare Street's other residents--face a larger problem. Explicit descriptions of sex.

The Next Always: a Novel

by Nora Roberts

Clare Brewster, a war widow with three sons, owns a bookstore in Boonsboro, Maryland, where architect Beckett Montgomery and his brothers are restoring the local inn. Clare and Beckett have begun dating when a stalker threatens Clare. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

DB 74102

Breakdown: a V.I. Warshawski Mystery

by Sara Paretsky

Chicago. PI Victoria Warshawski searches a cemetery for preteen girls in her cousin Petra's book club, who are reenacting a ritual inspired by popular vampire novels. But Warshawski also finds the corpse of another private investigator. Violence and strong language.

DB 74184

Love Letters: a Novel

by Katie Fforde

When the London bookstore where she is employed closes, Laura takes a job organizing a literary festival and makes new friends. She secures reclusive, womanizing Irish author Dermot Flynn to headline the event and gets along famously with him--but also falls in love. Some strong language.

DB 74225

Copper Beach: a Novel by Jayne Ann Krentz

Threatened by a blackmailer, clairvoyant bookseller Abby Radwell goes to reclusive scientist Sam Coppersmith for protection. Meanwhile, Sam needs Abby's help to find an old text containing powerful secrets. Their search unleashes mayhem--and passion. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence.

DB 74267

The Boyfriend of the Month Club: a Novel

by Maria Geraci

Irish Cuban Grace O'Bryan and her girlfriends have dated every bachelor in their hometown of Daytona Beach. When the women decide to turn their book club into a boyfriend club that rates each guy according to a literary character, membership skyrockets. Strong language.

The Book in the Renaissance

by Andrew Pettegree

Chronicles the first one hundred fifty years of the printed word. Details the origins and evolution of print, culminating in Gutenberg's innovation and its momentous consequences for humankind. Examines the religious, economic, and cultural concerns that influenced the production of books.

DB 74558

Sanctuary Cove: a Cavanaugh Island Novel

by Rochelle Aler

Suddenly widowed bookstore owner Deborah Robinson returns with her children to Sanctuary Cove on Cavanaugh Island, South Carolina. She meets Dr. Asa Monroe and they begin to fall in love. But Asa is hiding secrets about his past. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language.

DB 74685

Overseas: a Novel by Beatriz Williams

When twenty-something investment banker Kate Wilson meets hedge-fund billionaire Julian Laurence, she is not prepared for the instant attraction she feels. Then she learns Julian's secret: that he is a famous poet presumably killed ninety years ago in World War I. Strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 74877

The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness

by Kevin Young

Poet explores the influence of storytelling on literature and music in African-American culture. Examines encoded spirituals in the time of slavery, works of the Harlem Renaissance, and rap and hip-hop of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

DB 74769

Shadow Season: a Novel

by Tom Piccirilli

Blinded ex-cop Finn now teaches literature at a private girls' school in upstate New York. As a blizzard strikes the nearly empty campus during the holidays, someone begins assaulting both students and local girls--bringing back Finn's memories of his wife's death. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex.

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DB 75060

The First Love Cookie Club: a Novel

by Lori Wilde

When she is forced to return home to Twilight, Texas, successful children's book author Sarah Collier, who does not believe in love, encounters her high school crush, Travis Walker, who still has the power to make her heart melt. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 75252

The Sleeper Wakes: Harlem Renaissance Stories by Women edited by Marcy Knopf

Twenty-eight stories written in the 1920s and 1930s by fourteen African American women. Most were originally published in magazines and chronicle the struggles of race, gender, and poverty. In the title piece, a woman passes for white until her husband's bigotry breaks her silence. Violence and strong language.

DB 75335

The Prisoner of Heaven: a Novel

by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Barcelona, 1957. A stranger visits Sempere and Sons bookshop and buys a rare volume. Delving into the man's motives, Daniel Sempere uncovers secrets of Spain's dark past.

DB 75399

Wit and Wisdom From Poor Richard's Almanack

by Benjamin Franklin

Selections from Benjamin Franklin's almanacs, which were published for a quarter-century beginning in 1732 and included agricultural predictions, meteorological data, and maxims. This edition focuses on observations and aphorisms such as "eat to live, not live to eat." Introduction by humorist Dave Barry.

DB 75435

More Baths, Less Talking

by Nick Hornby

Compilation of fifteen previously published pieces by the author of Slam (DB 66402) and Juliet, Naked (DB 69792). Each essay delves into Hornby's thoughts on and reactions to the books he has bought and read during a specific month.

The Broken Teaglass: a Novel

by Emily Arsenault

While working on a new edition of the Samuelson Company dictionary, two young employees discover odd citations from a book called The Broken Teaglass. The book doesn't appear to exist--and the excerpts tell a story involving the Samuelson Company and murder. Some violence and some strong language.

DB 75599

Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore: a Novel

by Robin Sloan

While hunting for a new job, Web designer Clay Jannon wanders across Mr. Penumbra's Twenty-Four-Hour Bookstore, which sits next to a strip joint. Hired for the night shift, Clay is soon drawn into a world of mystery, intrigue, and kooky customers.

DB 75851

The First Prophet: a Novel

by Kay Hooper

Sarah Gallagher, who developed psychic powers after awaking from a coma, knows she is being watched. When novelist Tucker Mackenzie shows up to interview her, he has his own agenda--but soon the two are running for their lives. Violence and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 75881

The Book of Old Houses: a Novel

by Sarah Graves

Jake Tiptree finds a mysterious book in the basement of her 1823 house that has her name in it and takes it to rare-book expert Horace Robotham for answers. But someone murders Horace, the book vanishes, and a friend of Horace's arrives to investigate.

DB 76190

Bloodhounds: a Novel

by Peter Lovesey

During a meeting of the Bloodhounds, a crime-novel book club, Milo Motion finds a stolen rare stamp in his book. Soon after, another member's corpse is found in Milo's padlocked houseboat. But Milo has an airtight alibi. Inspector Peter Diamond investigates.

Until the End of Time: a Novel

by Danielle Steel

In 1975 Bill and Jenny forego lucrative Manhattan jobs and move to Wyoming, where Bill becomes a minister. Then tragedy strikes. In 2013 young Amish woman Lillibet sends a manuscript to publisher Robert--and an unexpected romance commences. Are these two love stories--or one? Some strong language. Bestseller.

DB 76688

Books to Die For: the World's Greatest Mystery Writers on the World's Greatest Mystery Novels

edited by John Connolly and Declan Burke; Ellen Clair

Anthology of 121 essays by noted mystery and crime writers on works in their genre that affected them most. The discussed novels were published between 1841 and 2008. Entries include Deon Meyer on Ed McBain, Deborah Crombie on P.D. James, and Michael Robotham on Peter Høeg. Agatha Award.

DB 76819

Works Cited: an Alphabetical Odyssey of Mayhem and Misbehavior by Brandon R. Schrand

Creative-writing professor tells his life story using fiction and nonfiction books as markers. References S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders (DB 22433), F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (DB 16147), and George Orwell's 1984 (DB 34268), among others, as he grows from boy to man. Strong language.

DB 76839

The Bookman's Tale: a Novel of Obsession by Charlie Lovett

Antiquarian book enthusiast Peter Byerly discovers an eighteenth-century study of Shakespeare forgeries that contains a Victorian portrait strongly resembling his late wife, a finding that sparks an obsessive search through the bard's historical period.

DB 77074

My Poets

by Maureen N. McLane

In a selection of original poems and experimental prose, McLane explores the life of reading and writing poetry. Invokes influences such as Chaucer and William Carlos Williams.

How to Read Literature

by Terry Eagleton

English professor offers instruction on critically assessing literary works. Describes ways to analyze openings, character, narrative, interpretation, and value. Uses examples from novels, poetry, plays, and nursery rhymes to illustrate points.

DB 77353

Professor Borges: a Course on English Literature

by Jorge Luis Borges

Compilation of lectures on English literature given by Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986) in 1966 at the University of Buenos Aires. Topics covered include Beowulf, origins of poetry in England, the Romantic movement, and the Victorian era.

DB 77423

Deadline Artists--Scandals, Tragedies, and Triumphs: More of America's Greatest Newspaper Columns

edited by John Avlon, Jesse Angelo and Errol Louis

History-making columns from veteran print journalists. Includes Jack London's eyewitness account of the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Ernie Pyle on the 1944 liberation of Paris, and H.L. Mencken on the 1925 Scopes "Monkey" Trial. Violence and strong language.

DB 77475

Billy Moon: a Novel

by Douglas Lain

Middle-aged British dad and bookseller Christopher Robin Milne still struggles to shed the baggage that comes with being the fictionalized pal of Winnie-the-Pooh in his father's beloved children's stories. Then a young French revolutionary invites Christopher to Paris to witness the 1968 student riots. Some violence.

DB 77735

S.: A Novel

by J.J. Abrams

A young woman picks up a book left behind by a stranger who wrote in the margins. She adds her own notes, then leaves the book for the first reader. So begins an unlikely conversation that plunges them both into the unknown. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller.

Once in a Lifetime: a Novel

by Jill Shalvis

Aubrey Wellington moves to Lucky Harbor, Washington, to take over her late aunt's bookstore and make amends to those she has hurt in the past. She hires widower Ben McDaniel to renovate and they become close. Unrated.

DB 78194

Death Comes Silently: a Death on Demand Mystery

by Carolyn Hart

Fellow volunteer Gretchen Burkholt substitutes for bookstore-owner Annie Darling at the local charity shop, so Annie can host a book signing. After receiving odd messages from Gretchen about finding something in the jacket of a deceased man, Annie stops by the shop--and discovers that Gretchen has been murdered.

DB 78306

Design for Murder: a Death on Demand Mystery

by Carolyn G. Hart

Bookstore owner and amateur sleuth Annie Laurance is asked to stage a murder for a historical society's antebellum house tour. But when a real corpse turns up, Annie becomes a possible suspect. With fiancé detective Max Darling's help, Annie investigates. Some strong language.

DB 78325

An Unnecessary Woman: a Novel

by Rabih Alameddine

Beirut. Seventy-two-year-old Aaliya spends her days translating books from English and French into Arabic for her private amusement. Divorced, childless, and godless in the eyes of society, she is shunned. She reflects on the literature that has touched her life and helped her survive the Lebanese Civil War.

DB 78344

My Life in Middlemarch: a Novel

by Rebecca Mead

Staff writer for the New Yorker reflects on George Eliot's Middlemarch (DB 20078), which she first read at age seventeen, and its influence on her life. Discusses similarities between her own experiences and those of both Middlemarch's characters and of Eliot. Bestseller.

Deadline Artists: America's Greatest Newspaper Columns edited by John Avlon, Jesse Angelo & Errol Louis

More than 150 newspaper articles and columns published between 1757--an item by Benjamin Franklin in Poor Richard's Almanack--and 2011. Includes pieces by Damon Runyon, Walter Lippmann, Jimmy Breslin, Pete Hamill, Mike Royko, Herb Caen, Erma Bombeck, Molly Ivins, Hunter S. Thompson, William Raspberry, Kathleen Parker, and others.

DB 78401

The Faraway Nearby

by Rebecca Solnit

Author presents a series of essays exploring the ways people use storytelling to understand their experiences and those of others. Topics covered include her mother's dementia, a trip to Iceland, and an illness. ALA Notable Book.

DB 78402

The Accident: a Novel

by Chris Pavone

An anonymous author delivers a manuscript to literary agent Isabel Reed, who stays up all night reading it--and is horrified. Meanwhile, a covert team--including Kate from The Expats (DB 74483)--will do anything to prevent the book's publication. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 78458

Why I Read: The Serious Pleasure of Books

by Wendy Lesser

Literary editor and writer examines the myriad reasons for her personal love of literature. Explores aspects of the written word that bring her pleasure in chapters devoted to "Character and Plot," "The Space Between," "Novelty," "Authority," and others. Also considers the sensuous delights of the physical book.

DB 78461

Careless People: Murder, Mayhem, and the Invention of The Great Gatsby by Sarah Churchwell

Examines the New York cultural milieu in 1922, when F. Scott Fitzgerald began plotting The Great Gatsby. Explores the ways the novel reflects Scott and his wife Zelda's glittering Jazz Age lifestyle, colored by the Hall-Mills double murder in New Jersey that was dubbed the crime of the decade.

The Dream of the Great American Novel

by Lawrence Buell

Harvard professor surveys the trajectory of our national fiction against the ideal of the Great American Novel endeavor. Analysis begins with classic works of Hawthorne and Melville and extends through the late twentieth century.

DB 78978

The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry: a Novel

by Gabrielle Zevin

When his most prized possession, a rare volume of poetry by Edgar Allan Poe, is stolen, bookstore owner A.J. Fikry begins isolating himself from his friends, family, and associates. Then he receives a mysterious package that compels him to remake his life. Strong language. Bestseller.

DB 79132

Unsolicited: a Booklover's Mystery

by Julie Wallin Kaewert

Alex Plumtree, owner of London's Plumtree Press, finds himself with a deadly puzzle on his hands when the anonymous author of a promised novel about the smuggling of British children to America during World War II disappears, and a leading critic who reviewed the book as a nonfiction exposé is murdered. Unrated.

DB 79134: a Booklover's Mystery

Unprintable

by Julie Kaewert

As a favor to the Prime Minister, Alex Plumtree agrees to publish one of the most repugnant pieces of fiction in England, and swiftly finds himself on the wrong side of a lawsuit--bugged, betrayed, roughed up, and implicated in murder. Unrated.

DB 79463

Authorisms: Words Wrought by Writers

by Paul Dickson

Collection of words and phrases either created or given new meaning by authors. Describes the first use of the term, its meaning, its creator, and related trivia. For example, the term "frenemy" was first coined by journalist Walter Winchell in 1953 to identify a rival or false friend.

Goodnight June: a Novel

by Sarah Jio

2005. June Andersen discovers she has inherited her great-aunt Ruby's bookstore in Seattle. As June settles the estate, she unearths letters between Ruby and children's author Margaret Wise Brown. Reading the correspondence, June realizes how she needs to change her own life. Some strong language.

DB 80106

Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good: a Novel

by Jan Karon

In retirement, Father Tim searches for something to occupy his time, while wife Cynthia continues with her career as a children's book author. Turning down a chance to run his former parish, he does take over the local bookstore when the owner is in need. Unrated. Bestseller.

DB 80335

Vanessa and Her Sister: a Novel

by Priya Parmar

London, 1905. After the death of their father, the Stephen siblings--Vanessa, Thoby, Virginia, and Adrian--purchase a home in Bloomsbury. There they entertain and develop a close circle of literary and artistic friends. Vanessa and Virginia both fall in love. Unrated.

DB 80337

So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why it Endures by Maureen Corrigan

NPR book critic and literature professor Corrigan examines F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (DB 16147) from literary, sociological, cultural, historical, and personal standpoints. Discusses the Jazz-Age culture that gave rise to the novel and the impact the novel has had on generations of students. Unrated.

DB 80743

The Zhivago Affair: the Kremlin, the CIA, and the Battle Over a Forbidden Book by Peter Finn and Petra Couvée

Journalist Finn and translator Couvée examine the life and major work of Boris Pasternak (1890-1960), author of Doctor Zhivago (DB 75275). Details influences on the novel, writing culture in the Soviet state, how the novel was published, and its use by Western intelligence agencies as Cold War propaganda. Some strong language.

Lincoln and the Power of the Press: the War for Public Opinion by Harold Holzer

Editor of The Lincoln-Douglas Debates (DB 38793) examines the relationship between Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), sixteenth president of the United States, and the press of his day. Discusses the way Lincoln used the powers of the presidency to close down "disloyal" newspapers and restrict access to information.

DB 80928

When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II by Molly Guptill Manning

Attorney describes the Victory Book Campaign during World War II, which provided American soldiers with selected literature of note in the face of Nazi censorship and destruction of books. Discusses the impact the program had on the titles chosen and on the publishing industry.

DB 81017

How to Be a Heroine, or, What I've Learned from Reading Too Much by Samantha Ellis

Playwright Samantha Ellis inspects several classic literary ladies, including both characters and writers. Ellis evaluates the role they have played in her life within a tight-knit Iraqi-Jewish community before expanding her scope to examine how timeless characters often serve as guides for how many people live their lives.

DB 81213

Ten Windows: How Great Poems Transform the World by Jane Hirshfield

A collection of ten essays on the power of poetry. Poet Hirshfield looks at poems of varied styles and time periods and uses them to show how reading poetry can transform readers, inviting reflection about their own lives and the wider world.

DB 81380

The Bookseller: a Novel by Cynthia Swanson

Kitty runs a bookstore in 1960s Denver and lives a quiet, single life. At night, however, she experiences vivid dreams of a different life where she marries and has kids, a life that becomes almost more real to her than her own. Some descriptions of sex.

The Last Bookaneer: a Novel

by Matthew Pearl

In 1890, the implementation of an international copyright law is looming, and competing bookaneers Pen Davenport and his nemesis, Belial, travel to Samoa to steal the final manuscript by Robert Louis Stevenson. On arriving, however, they find the environment to be more dangerous than they expected. Unrated.

DB 81498

Once Upon a Kiss: a Novel

by Jayne Fresina

When handsome Darius Wainwright comes to town, the Book Club Belles are charmed and make comparisons to their favorite characters in Pride and Prejudice. Justina Penny doesn't understand his appeal, but she soon becomes the object of his romantic intentions. Some explicit descriptions of sex.

DB 81759

Lovecraft's Monsters

edited by Ellen Datlow

Award-winning editor collects eighteen works celebrating the monsters depicted in H.P. Lovecraft's horror stories. These include the tentacled Cthulhu, the demon Sultan Azathoth, the Deep Ones, and the unspeakably evil Hastur. Includes stories from Neil Gaiman, Kim Newman, Elizabeth Bear, and many others. Unrated.

DB 81928

The Little Paris Bookshop: a Novel

by Nina George

Parisian bookseller Jean Perdu prescribes particular books to cure emotional ills, but he himself is haunted by his lost love, Manon. New neighbor Catherine convinces him to read a letter Manon left behind twenty years ago, setting him on a journey to make peace with his past. Unrated.

DB 82472

Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase: a Novel

by Louise Walters

Thirty-four-year-old Roberta pines after her boss Philip as she works in the Old and New Bookshop. Then her father brings in her grandmother's suitcase, and Roberta discovers secrets her grandmother has hidden--secrets Roberta cannot ask her about--concerning an encounter with a Polish fighter pilot during World War II. Unrated.